Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 235 | FRIDAY AUGUST 22, 2008 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

Visit us online @ www.saipantribune.com

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you agree with the governor's reasons in his decision to declare a state of disaster emergency for the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

All-Out War
Police special forces with orders to kill headed into the hinterlands of the southern Philippines.
ASIA...Page 26

Plane Crash
A jetliner heading to the popular Canary Islands vacation resort crashed during takeoff in Madrid, Spain.
WORLD...Page 27

New Dad
Matt Damon's wife Luciana gave birth to a baby girl Wednesday.
LIFE & STYLE...Page 36

Pete A. pushes for 10-year transition period. **PAGE 3**
NMI Hotshots return from fighting Calif. wildfires. **PAGE 5**

Fate of key Tinian infrastructure hinges on military buildup

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

TINIAN—Several key infrastructure improvement plans on Tinian—such as the rehabilitation of its typhoon-battered port or a bid to establish a new solid waste dump—appear for now to hinge on how the pending military buildup in Guam will impact the island.

Guam is now preparing for the arrival of an estimated 8,000 U.S. service personnel and their 9,000 family members, who are set to be relocated from Okinawa, Japan. The move will require the construction of marine infrastructure for naval ships and scores of new building

See FATE on Page 4

Power outage snarls airport

Passengers check in their luggage at the Northwest Airlines' departure counter for Flight 99 bound for Narita, Japan, early yesterday morning. A few minutes earlier, another NWA flight was delayed for over three hours due to a power outage at the airport.
NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A three-hour power outage at the Saipan International Airport delayed two flights bound for Japan and Korea at dawn yesterday.

Commonwealth Ports Authority officials said the power went off at 3:40am and came back over three hours later at 7:10am. Airport staff initially reported that electricity was restored at around 6:45am.

The outage, compounded by the lack

See POWER on Page 4

Faulty hardware causes islandwide power outage

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A faulty system hardware in the Kagman area caused an islandwide outage that lasted about three hours early yesterday morning.

A problem with a line in Kagman caused Engine No. 2 in Power Plant 1 to go down about 3:45am yesterday morning, said Antonio Muna,

See FAULTY on Page 4

RELATED NEWS

- CUC revenue, $91M; its expenses, $105M. **PAGE 2**
- Outage foils presentation on federalization. **PAGE 2**
- 'CUC as a monopoly is attractive to Fund' **PAGE 6**

Courts ration generator fuel by closing

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantiribune.com
REPORTER

Judges, jurors and attorneys at the CNMI Superior Court found themselves in the dark Thursday, as the court rations generator fuel due to a lack of funding.

Yesterday, the courthouse ran on the building's generator for the duration of the morning

See COURTS on Page 4

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
The House of Justice building in Susupe, which houses the CNMI Superior Court and CNMI Supreme Court.

3,000 Minute & iShare Plan
Phone Promo

	i415	i425	i335	i855	i570	i880
3,000 Minute Plan:	FREE	$49	$99	$99	$149	$179
iShare Plan:	FREE	$99	$159	$159	$199	$239

NEW NEW

iCONNECT
PUSH-TO-TALK THAT WORKS
Saipan - Guam Office:
888-8888
www.iconnectsaipan.com

Local

CUC revenue, $91M; its expenses, $105M

Pangelinan: CUC has nothing to pay for financial obligations

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Under existing conditions, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. does not have adequate resources to pay its short-term or its long-term financial obligations, according to Sen. Maria Frica T. Pangelinan yesterday.

Citing CUC's latest statements of net deficiency, Pangelinan pointed out that the agency is on track to invoice approximately $91 million to customers (operating revenues) in Fiscal Year 2008.

CUC, however, is also on track to spend approximately $105 million to provide the service (operating expenses) that justifies the $91 million in billings, the senator told *Saipan Tribune.*

In addition, CUC has other financial obligations that are in excess of its operating expenses, said Pangelinan, who chairs the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs.

"Any company must bring in more income (operating revenue) than it costs (operating expenses) to do business," she said.

The senator said income that is left over after covering the day-to-day expenses of operation is needed to pay for other expenses, such as loans and upgrades (capital improvements).

"These items are important as it allows a company to stay modern, and continue to provide services by investing in replacement equipment and advances in technology to keep its equipment and facilities functional and safe," Pangelinan said.

CUC's net deficiency statements indicate that, as of March 31 this year, CUC total assets was at $129.9 million, but its total liabilities was a staggering $215.5 million.

To address CUC's financial issues, Pangelinan said the Saipan delegation's Public Utilities and Infrastructure Committee is actively working with the Fitial administration and CUC, and that they are committed to finding solutions—both short- and long-term.

On the short-term solution, Pangelinan said they are focused on providing reliable power and water.

Pangelinan

With respect to long-term solutions, she said they are focusing on CUC's operational expenses and its debt load, and ways to relieve both.

In yesterday's PUIC meeting at the House chamber, Pangelinan said she is really worried after reviewing CUC's financial report.

"I just don't have any solution for the short-term on their cash flow and how to relieve them of their debts," the senator said.

The situation, she said, is also bad for the FY 2009 budget because if CUC doesn't have the money to meet its current obligation, this means it will be eating into somebody else's budget or the general fund's budget

"I'm just stressed out and I take this personally. I think we should really look at the current situation and let's not worry whether they are complying or not. It's too late to do that," the senator added. She earlier stated that CUC is "basically bankrupt."

The meeting was still ongoing when *Saipan Tribune* left the chamber yesterday afternoon. The other lawmakers present in the meeting were Reps. Christina Sablan, Edward Salas, and Francisco S. Dela Cruz.

Outage foils presentation on federalization impact

The Fitial administration continues to analyze the effects of the federalization law on the CNMI, according to press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. yesterday.

Reyes said this is why Fitial's special legal counsel Howard Willens and volunteer consultant and Labor hearing officer Deane Siemer were supposed to hold a presentation in the House's chamber yesterday morning.

It was canceled, though, due to a power outage, Reyes said.

He said Willens and Siemer were set to discuss the federalization law, among other topics.

"I think we're continuing to look at the consequences and implications of the legislation and the effects on the CNMI," Reyes said. "We're looking at what may be likely and what may not be likely."

Senate President Pete P. Reyes on Tuesday informed lawmakers that the Executive Branch's topics for discussion would be aspects of CNMI and U.S. labor laws, the islands' economic situation and outlook, and strategies to improve both. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

No matter how many times you've heard it, there are people who just don't get it - DRINKING AND DRIVING DON'T MIX.
DRUNK DRIVING
OVER THE LIMIT. UNDER ARREST.
Cops are cracking down.
Chances are you'll get caught and Chances are you can't afford to:
WHAT THAT LAST DRINK CAN COST YOU:
Vehicle towing and storage fee $ 100.00
Car insurance premium fee $ 1,300.00
DUI penalty fee $ 500.00
Reckless Driving $ 250.00
Court fee $ 100.00
DUI classes $ 100.00
Attorney fees $ 2,500.00
Community service 100 hrs.
Missed working days 3 days-1 month
TOTAL $ 4,850.00
Fee based on costs from various locations
Department of Public Safety
For more information
call 664-9084/85
www.dps.gov.mp

LIVE BAND FROM YAP
JOKORO BAND
Back to Back
Rock Islanders Band
Date: Aug 29, 2008
Aug 30, 2008
Time: 9:00pm to 2:00am
Location: USSP Bar
Ticket Fee: $10.00 per night Gate Fee: $15.00
°Buy a Ticket now and get one Free Drink and one Free Chaser to enjoy your night...
°To purchase a Ticket, check the following store close to you.
-KL Market
-Martha Store - Garapan
-USSP - Garapan
-The Yapese Association
Support us in our efforts to raise funds for loved one's Medical Expenses

Pete A. pushes for 10-year transition period

In a letter to U.S. Labor Secretary Elaine Chao, CNMI Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio requested that the five-year transition period mandated in Public Law 110-229 be extended to 10 years.

Tenorio

"Replacing foreign workers with U.S. citizens or citizens of the Freely Associated States is a process that requires education, training and skill development so that these workers can qualify for many of the existing jobs," Tenorio pointed out in his letter. "It also requires time, as many of these potential new local employees are either too young to join the workforce or they are not trained in any trade or vocational and technical disciplines."

"The main reason that the number of foreign workers has declined in the last several years is because of the closure of the majority of CNMI's garment factories and numerous other businesses. It is not because they have been overwhelmingly replaced by 'local' workers. The CNMI must be able to attract new businesses and those new businesses will want some assurance that there is a stable workforce," added Tenorio.

Although the newly established law allows for an extension after five years, Tenorio believes one will be necessary and there is no reason to delay its implementation.

Public Law 110-229 requires that by Dec. 31, 2014, or the end of the transition period, the number of permits to hire transitional workers be reduced to zero.

"In all honesty, I do not see how the number of trained local workers will be nearly sufficient to fill existing jobs, let alone any new jobs that I hope are created by new business investors in the CNMI in the near future," said Tenorio.

A 10-year transition period "will provide at least some breathing room for potential business investors to invest with confidence that they will have the needed manpower to operate their businesses, and allow time to truly begin training a local workforce to take over these jobs in the future. Time and the level of new investments will tell if we may need additional extensions beyond this, but I am certain, as I believe most employers are, that this first extension will be necessary," concluded Tenorio. ***(PR)***

Attention Lawyers!

There can only be one

Top Listed Saipan Attorney

On Google?

Could it be you?
Find out now

SaipanAttorney.com

FOR

- China Visa
- Chinese Passport Renewal

Please contact

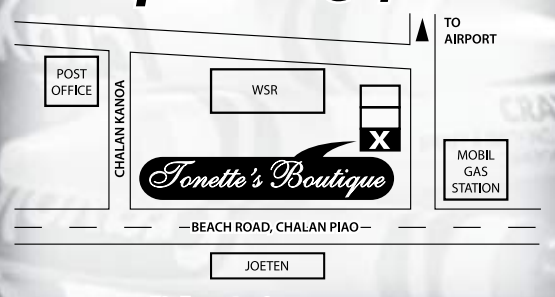
CNMI Consulting Services
Telephone No. 287-7823

Tonette's Boutique

Back-to-School SALE!

August 28-31, 2008
(Thursday-Sunday)

All Top Items @ $1.25



As Perdido, Saipan • 235-4823

HARDT EYE CLINIC
Serving you for over 15 years

DAVID HARDT, O.D. | DON HARDT, O.D.

SERVICES OFFERED:

• New patients welcome • Thorough examinations for eye disease
• Treatment for infections and injuries • Glaucoma treatment • Diabetic eye care
• Infant/children eye exams • We love kids
• Staff are fluent in Chamorro, Carolinian, Chinese, Japanese and Tagalog.

We are open for your convenience 6 days a week.

Walk-ins are Welcome!

We accept most insurance plans including: Aetna, Medicaid, Medicare, Calvo's, Netcare, TakeCare. Tricare Overseas, and Blue Cross (Federal Govt. employees)

We accept most credit cards including Visa, MasterCard and American Express

Please call us now at 235-2030

We are located at Beach Road next to Megabyte.

Welcome to SAEF School!

SAEF School was established September 14, 2007 as a non-profit, 1-12, college prepatory school. The school is presently located in the Marianas Business Plaza on the 3rd floor.

The mission of SAEF School is to improve the world through education--one student at a time. This is accomplished by facilitating student progress towards a successful college experience. SAEF School strives to keep learners engaged at their level, pace, and interest level. SAEF administration believes that this can best be accomplished in an enjoyable atmosphere where each student feels valued.

Class times are M-F 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM. For grades 1 through 8, SAEF follows the Core Knowledge Sequence curriculum. Time 4 Learning, Spelling Power, Hooked on Phonics, Saxon Math and other programs are also utilized. In cooperation with Keystone National School, for grades 9 through 12, SAEF offers a wide variety of AP and regular classes. This program is accredited by the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools (NAAS).

For the enrichment of all, SAEF welcomes international students and hosts international groups.

The more you get to know us, the more you will find that first and foremost, SAEF is interested in providing and promoting quality education.

Dr. E. Roland Brown, Principal

All are invited to one of two information meetings at SAEF School on August 26th at 4-5:00PM or 7-8:00PM

Fees

Application	*$10 (one-time)*
Registration	*$50/year*
Materials	*$200/year*

Tuition

Grades 1-8	*$325/month*
Grades 9-12	*$4950/year (10 months) (Payment Plan Available)*
After School Study Hall, ESL, or Individualized Study	*$120/month (3:30 PM - 5:00 PM)*

Saipan American Education Foundation
Improving the World through Education
drb@saefschool.org

SAEF School

2008-2009 School Schedule

1st Quarter September 8 - November 12	(45 days)
2nd Quarter November 13 - January 30	(45 days)
3rd Quarter February 2 - April 7	(45 days)
4th Quarter April 8 - June 15	(45 days)

Make-up days (if needed)	December 29-31, January 2, 2009
Make-up days (if needed)	June 16 - 19, 2009

Additional Teachers' Workdays	
Teachers' Orientation	September 2, 2008
Education Day	November 22, 2008
Wrap-up	June 16, 2009

School Days	
Monday - Friday	8:00AM - 3:00PM

No-School Days	
September 1	Labor Day
October 13	Commonwealth Cultural Day
November 4	Citizenship Day
Noveber 11	Veterans' Day
November 22	Education Day
November 27-28	Thanksgiving Break
December 8	Constitution Day
December 24-26	Christmas Break
December 29-31	Intersession (If not, Make-up days)
January 1	New Year's Day
January 2	Intersession (If not, Make-up day)
January 19	Martin Luther King Day
February 16	Presidents' Day
March 24	CNMI Covenant Day
April 9-13	Easter Break
May 25	Memorial Day
June 15	Last Day of School/Commencement

2008-2009 Available Seats

1st Grade	0	7th Grade	7
2nd Grade	0	8th Grade	0
3rd Grade	9	9th Grade	9
4th Grade	0	10th Grade	0
5th Grade	8	11th Grade	8
6th Grade	0	12th Grade	7

U.S. Census gearing up for 2010 count

By PERRY SWANSON
THE GAZETTE

The government wants to get to know you, your name, gender, age, birth date and race. Who lives with you, do you own or rent your home?

It's not optional—a survey will arrive in the mail in March or April and by law you have to answer the questions truthfully and send it back. Refusing to answer the questionnaire is punishable by a fine up to $100 and deliberately lying could bring a $500 fine.

The questions are part of the 2010 U.S. census, a once-a-decade effort to count everyone who lives in the country. It's kicking into high gear as the end of the decade approaches.

The count includes people who live in all 50 states, plus Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa. It takes in citizens and noncitizens. The estimated cost is $13.7 billion to $14.5 billion, the most expensive census since the counts started in 1790, even after adjusting for inflation, according to the Government Accountability Office.

Federal agencies use data collected in the census to parcel out $300 billion in tax money annually, according to the Census Bureau. Money for federal highway projects, for example, is partly guided by census population figures.

"It's very important to local communities to have an accurate count so they can get their fair share of those dollars," census spokesman Doug Wayland said today.

The numbers guide how each state gets representatives in Congress. After the 2000 census, Colorado got its seventh seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Local government agencies and businesses also use the data, all available for free on the census Web site, www.census.gov.

Workers will send census surveys by mail, and people who don't reply will get a knock on their doors. Census officials work with groups in each local areas to identify hard to count populations, such as organizations that run homeless shelters.

The Census Bureau keeps responses private - something federal law says it must do.

"The census takes that responsibility as a top priority," Wayland said. "Filling out the census is safe. Everyone who is hired by the census takes an oath of confidentiality. The penalties are severe, and then the data that is collected is not identified to the individual."

In previous surveys, every sixth household got a "long form" questionnaire with many more questions, down to how each person gets to work and whether a household has telephone service. The long form will be absent from the census in 2010, replaced by the annual American Community Survey, which goes to just 3 million households.

CONGRESSIONAL VISIT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Guam Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo talks with Guam National Guardsmen and women during a recent House Armed Services Committee Congressional Delegation to Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

POWER

From Page 1

of a generator at the airport, bogged down the computerized system at the Arrivals and Departure areas and kept passengers waiting for hours.

Acting CPA executive director Lee Cabrera said that fuses at the Kiya substation near the airport area blew up and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. had to repair them first.

Terrible experience

Asiana Airlines's general manager for Regional Sales Office in Saipan Kwang Joong Kim said they were almost finished with the boarding procedures when the electricity went off. He said this caused discomfort among the passengers.

Kim said Asiana's Flight 608 bound for Pusan, South Korea, was scheduled to fly at 4am but because of the power outage, the plane departed at exactly 7:10am.

"It was really a very terrible experience. It was a very difficult time for us, especially the passengers," he said.

Kim recalled that 86 passengers got stuck in the aircraft and that most stood for hours at the departure lounge without air conditioning system.

Northwest Airlines' 5:30am flight to Japan was also affected and left about 7am.

The other Northwest aircraft bound for Japan, Flight 99, departed on time at 8:45am for Narita Airport.

Northwest staff initially reported that Flight 99's 100 passengers boarded on time.

'Sorry'

Cabrera expressed regret over the discomfort that stranded passengers experienced. He said CPA is very sorry about the incident and is asking for the public's understanding.

"We are open to any complaints. This is the challenge that we all faced," Cabrera said.

He said CPA sympathizes with CUC and appreciate what it is doing to help keep the power system going at the airport.

Cabrera said CUC has assured CPA there will be no more power interruptions at the airport in the future "unless it is uncontrollable."

"We really appreciate what CUC is doing to help us get online," he said.

The two backup generators at the airport went down several months ago. Repair works commenced early last month.

He said they have already ordered several spare parts to fully restore the generators.

Expected completion of the repair work on the two backup generators will be by the end of November or the first week of December.

FAULTY

From Page 1

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director. Engine No. 2 triggered Power Plant 4 to go down.

"Basically [Engine No. 2] brought down Power Plant 4," Muna said.

Power Plant 4 went down about 3:50am. The engines were restarted three hours later.

Yesterday morning, only Engine No. 3 was operational at Power Plant 1. Engine 2 of Power Plant 1 began working at 2:30pm, while Engine No. 6 began working around 5:45pm, Muna said. Engine 6 had been undergoing repairs at the time of the incident.

"It's all related to not having enough power generated, essentially," he said. "What happened [was that the engines] are just overburdened."

Muna said once the Aggreko generators become operational in September, he does not anticipate similar situations to occur.

"If we had three of four [engines] up, they could have sustained the events," he said.

The island was also affected by extended rotating outages yesterday. CUC was down to a "one-engine scenario," meaning the two-hour rotating outages were extended to three hours in some areas, Muna said.

He did not know the areas affected by the extended outages.

CUC is canceling a four-hour planned outage for Middle Road this morning, Muna said. He said the outage is so extensive that CUC is holding off on the repairs until further notice.

FATE

From Page 1

projects. The military's plans are expected to spill onto Pagan and Tinian, which officials have said could serve as a staging ground for training activities.

Coupled with anticipated growth in the tourism market, many local people here say they are cautiously optimistic the buildup can aid in reviving Tinian's struggling island economy.

Much of Tinian's vital infrastructure, however, requires a major overhaul. A prime example is the island's port. In 2006, local authorities declared a state of emergency at the port due to the deterioration of its pier and the erosion of its World War II-era breakwater. An influx of silt into the port has also caused its channel to become shallow, a change that one local official says threatens to block commercial shipping to the island.

In an interview Thursday, William Cing, an advisor to Tinian Mayor Jose San Nicolas, said a host of repairs made to portions of the wharf have kept the port in operation but fixing the bulk of it is beyond the resources of the local government. Tinian's leadership has urged the military and federal officials to take up the project as part of the buildup, he added.

"We've fixed the pier to the point where it can continue to operate but it's not enough," Cing said, noting that on stretches of the seawall, observers can watch the waves slip through unimpeded to the dock. "The rest is beyond what we can do with the money we have."

Estimates place the cost of repairing the pier, dredging the channel and reinforcing the breakwater at $40 million or more, he said. According to a map of the site, most of the port's assets require rehabilitation.

Meanwhile, the timetable for constructing a multi-million dollar hotel on Tinian, the proposed Matua Bay Resort, is now in doubt because the location for it currently is the island's only solid waste dump. Local officials have long sought to open a new dump as the current on fails to comply with regulatory standards. However, staff with the mayor's office said the most ideal place for a new dump, a swath of land on the Northwestern side of Tinian, is now under military control. Efforts to win use of the site through the military, the staff added, were progressing before early efforts toward the buildup began but they have since stalled as planners evaluate how much land on Tinian they will need.

"We can't shut down the dump we have now until we have a new one running," Cing said.

Attached to the new dump project is a bid to see a new wastewater treatment facility built adjacent to it, the staff said. Local officials are now weighing alternative sites for the two facilities but surveys of the island suggest the one on military land is still the most suitable.

The new dump cannot come fast enough for representatives of the Matua Bay project, who said in a conference last week that shutting the current dump is vital to keep the resort's construction moving forward.

Mayor's office staff said talks on the issue with the military are ongoing.

COURTS

From Page 1

due to a power outage, but the court is nearing the end of its fuel supply and has little money for more. The court closed and turned off the generator for a few hours to ration the fuel.

Judge David Wiseman said the problem has gotten worse in the past week. A jury trial he is presiding over has been interrupted three times because of the lack of fuel.

"The Judiciary's budget never contemplated that there would be a need to use the generator so frequently to conduct the court's business," he said.

Wiseman said funding for the court cannot be compromised.

The interruptions are forcing Wiseman to change his court calendar, a task that can have many repercussions, he said.

"The court calendars are very difficult to change, and if the court is shut down during the time when a calendar is scheduled then there usually is no way to contact a defendant to appear for a new date," he said. "Defendants can then leave and not come back without [Department of Public Safety] or Probation assistance."

Wiseman said the court's generator uses 50 gallons of fuel an hour. With diesel fuel around $5 per gallon, the court is spending approximately $250 an hour to keep the court up and running.

Wiseman said he is given a general idea of when the generator will be turned off each day.

"But it's hard to fit a court hearing into a certain time," he added.

A spokesman for the Superior Court could not be reached yesterday, but there are rumors that the court's proceedings might be moved to the U.S. Federal Court.

Attorney Steve Pixley, who has been taking part in a jury trial since Monday at the Superior Court, said the power and generator power have been going out since the start of the trial.

"The other day we had to use our cell phones to see where we were going," he said.

Pixley said the court was adjourned at 3pm Wednesday, when it typically goes to 4:30 or 5pm, due to a lack of generator fuel.

"It's pretty frustrating," he said. "Something needs to be done."

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Antonio Muna said the court shouldn't have to be providing its own power in the first place.

"We want to provide 24-hour power," he said. "We should be the only ones providing 24-hour power on a regular basis and not rely on a self generator."

NMI Hotshots return from fighting Calif. wildfires

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eleven local firefighters returned last week after battling the northern California wildfires for more than a month.

Twenty members of the CNMI Hotshot crew deployed July 1 to fight the hundreds of wildfires blanketing the state. The nine members who did not return stayed in the States or are taking time off.

"I want to welcome back our troops," Anthony Babauta, chief of the team, said Thursday. "We extend our appreciate to their wives and families for their support."

Babauta said the conditions near the fires were intense.

"You have to be really physically fit," he said. "It was hard climbing at first. I applaud my guys for working with me"

A chopper had to drop the firefighters off 4.5 miles away because of the fires' intensity, Babauta said. The crew fought fires in northern California near Redding.

The crew trained for about a week leading up to the deployment, he said. More time to train would be helpful, he added.

"We did a good job in the short time we had," he said.

Guam, American Samoa and Hawaii crews also took part in the firefighting effort. The Guam crew is still in California, Babauta said.

Hotshot crewmember Frank Mafnas said the experience was scary at times. The crew often worked 16-hour days, he added.

"It was hard, but it was for a good cause," he said. "And they were proud of us."

Babauta said the Hotshot crew gets called up once a year or once every two years.

The other members of the crew were: Angelo Tudela, Jesus Santos, Jonathan Kapileo, Eugene Borja, Glenn Garde and Karl Litulumar.

Members of the NMI Hotshot crew pose in front of a firefighting truck yesterday. The crew recently returned from battling wildfires in northern California.

KRISTI EATON

Marianas Maid Services
Are you overwhelmed at work?
Has taking care of your kids and the housework become a burden?
LET US MAKE YOUR HOME OR OFFICE
*****SPARKLE*****
Cleaning services starting as low as $40 per cleaning.
All equipment and cleaning supplies provided.
All our staff has been hand picked and are reliable.
Ironing, Laundry, Window washing and many other services available for an additional fee.
Contact Julie at 287-6542 to schedule an appointment.

COME SEE!

Come see the clinic that has been recognized by Retinal Physician magazine as "one of the best- equipped in Asia-Pacific"

Come see our doctors who have received national recognition

Mark Robertson, OD
Magna Cum Laude
Specializing in Diabetic Retinopathy Evaluation
Comprehensive Medical Eye Care
Vision Care

David Khorram, MD
America's Top Ophthalmologists
Specializing in Retinal and Diabetic Eye Disease
Advanced Cataract Surgery with Lens Implant
Complex Eye Disease

Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"
235-9090
Beach Road, Garapan
www.MarianasEye.com
One-Hour Glasses • Contacts • Medical Eye Care
Advance Surgery & Laser • Botox
We accept: Aetna, Staywell, Moylan's, TakeCare, Medicaid, Medicare, Calvos', and more.
If you can't pay for your care, the Eye Foundation Fund helps cover your costs.

Saturday Sale!
August 23, 2008 • 10:00am - 2:00pm
Payless Supermarket (Chalan Kanoa)
STAR CRUIZER cool deals on wheels

Motorola 315 (CDMA) — Prepaid w/ TDMA Trade or Regular Buy $50.00*****
Sanyo 8300 (CDMA - Camera Phone) — Prepaid w/ TDMA Trade or Regular Buy $75.00*****
Motorola c139 (GSM Dual-Band) — Prepaid w/ TDMA Trade $40.00**** — Regular Buy: $50.00
Motorola V557 (GSM Quad-Band • Camera Phone) — Prepaid w/ TDMA Trade $75.00**** — Regular Buy: $100.00

PTI Your connection to the world
Customer Care: 682-4PTI
www.pticom.com
wap.pticom.com

TRADE IN YOUR TDMA PHONE
Nokia 8260, Nokia 3320, Motorola V.60, Nokia 3360
Nokia 6360, Nokia 5165, Motorola V120
FREE AIRTIME!
when using PTI Long Distance Prepaid Card

* GSM Phones includes PTI GSM SIM Card & Free $20.00 Load • with Trade includes: Free Text Card
* SIM Cards expires 90 days AFTER LAST USE • $20 Load expires 60 days AFTER 1ST USE
** CDMA Phones with TDMA Trade includes Free $25.00 Load • Free Text Card * Regular buy includes Free $20.00 Load
*** Cannot keep number • while supplies last • No phonebook transfer • Credit cards will be accepted • some conditions apply

'CUC as a monopoly is attractive to Fund'

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is a good opportunity for the NMI Retirement Fund to invest in because it is a monopoly, according to Fund chair Juan T. Guerrero yesterday.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes has also expressed support for the plan that, according to him, could be done in partnership with Marianas Public Land Trust and the Commonwealth Development Authority.

Reyes presided over a meeting on the proposal yesterday morning with officials from the Fund, CDA, and MPLT in the Senate chamber.

Some senators and representatives have questioned why the Fund is investing in CUC when it has been refusing to let Fund members retire due to the lack of available pension funds and in light of CUC's worsening financial condition.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* after the meeting, Guerrero said they are still in the exploratory stage and that they want to conduct due diligence to ensure that it would be a sound investment move.

"We're interested but we need to satisfy that due diligence," Guerrero said.

He defended the proposal, saying that, as trustees for the Fund, it is their responsibility to invest the Fund's money, whether it is with CUC or not.

Guererro said the Fund's assets must be invested to ensure that the agency will meet its obligations to Fund members.

"Of the assets that we have, about $100 million is paid from the government. The rest were all earned from investments," he stressed.

When asked how much the Fund is planning to invest in CUC, Guerrero said it is still too early at this stage to suggest an amount.

He disclosed that they are inviting MPLT and CDA to join in the investment and set up a structure for this new investment plan that the Fund is proposing.

"Our role would be basically as investor, nothing else. We are interested to invest, just like when we invest in the U.S stock market or international market," he said.

Guerrero said CUC is a monopoly, so they are looking at this investment plan as an opportunity to make money.

"We feel that if outsiders are going to make the bulk of the money, we want the same opportunity because we have the assets or resources," he said.

The chairman emphasized that their proposal is not a loan but an investment.

"All the criteria have to be set and if it meets all those criteria, then it would probably be the opportunity [to invest]," he said.

Guerrero said if handled correctly, CUC as a monopoly is supposed to make money.

"CUC is one of the last monopolies. In most places, utility is a monopoly. A good return on investments should be derived from the operation of CUC," he said.

Citing three other Fund's investments in the CNMI, Guerrero said this is an opportunity for them to invest locally.

"But we need to correct the deficiency [at CUC] if we are going to put our money in," he added.

Sen. Reyes, in a Tuesday letter to Guerrero, said the Fund's interest in investing in CUC in possible partnership with MPLT and CDA is a "welcome surprise" for him.

(Ferdie dela Torre)

Burglars victimize Capital Hill couple

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipontribune.com
REPORTER

An unknown number of suspects broke into a couple's home on Capital Hill Wednesday and took off with several items worth over $1,500.

Victim Christine Santos said around 1:30pm on Wednesday, as she and boyfriend Carlo Evangelista were running errands, the suspect/s broke into their house and stole several items. The couple found out about the incident when they returned home around 4pm.

Santos said the stolen items included a Compaq Presario Laptop with its charger and mouse worth about $1,200, a Trutech brand portable DVD player ($200), a Sony PS2 game console with controller and plugs ($120) and a samurai sword.

Santos said they believe that those responsible for this might be living around the neighborhood.

"I think that they really know us because they didn't even bother to touch my boyfriend's parents' really expensive stuff like T.V. and jewelry," she said.

She said the suspect/s broke the side window of the house, went upstairs and then left via a back door. The suspect/s also broke a glass cabinet and left the back door open.

She said the suspect/s possibly walked to the forest at the back of the house after getting all they wanted.

She said they immediately reported this to the police, who informed them about previous similar incidents in the area.

"The police came an hour later and talked to us about it and took photos of the broken windows and everything," Santos said.

Family Outlet

XO MARKET
MIDDLE ROAD
H MART | FAMILY OUTLET | FIRST HAWAIIAN BANK

Tel: 1-670-2338986
E-mail: bewindspn@yahoo.com
STORE HOURS: Mon.–Sat. • 9AM -6PM
yes.saipan.com (personal shop) under Home Appliance

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE
Currently we are sold-out on generators, but our shipment will be arriving at the end of August (limited quantities)
SO COME IN AND RESERVE YOURS TODAY!

Gas Generator 1200Watt $390

Gas Generator 3000Watt with Electric Start $750

Gas Generator 6000Watt with Electric Start $1,250

Diesel Generator 6000Watt with Electric Start $2,250

24TH ANNUAL SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL FISHING TOURNAMENT
August 9 & 10, 2008

Congratulations to all the participants!
Thanks to all the following supporters and sponsors!

Fleming Hotel
PTI
Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino
Budget Car Rental
Sea-Lago, Inc and Cars Unlimited Saipan
Deepstar Submarine
Yano Enterprises, Inc./Kinpachi Restaurant Convenience Kinpachi
Coca Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia), Inc.
Wax Museum of Saipan
Coral Ocean Point Resort Club
D'Elegance Ent., Inc.
Hard Rock Café Saipan
Western Sales Trading Company
Joeten Motors
I connect
Dr. Jacks Bar and Grill
Naked Fish/YCO Corporation
Saipan Cell Communication
Marpac
Pacific Trading Co.
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Kan Pacific Saipan
Hertz Rental Car
Fishing Tackle Saipan
Northwest Airlines
Micronesia Wood Craft
Aquarius Beach Tower
J & G Water & Ice Co.
Mitsue Restaurant
Micronesia Marine
NMI Chapter American Redcross
Dr. Jacks Bar & Grill
Ray Villagomez
Elite Printing
Island Apparel
Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc.
Mori-san APNEA Fishing Club
DFS Galleria Saipan
Saipan Shipping Co., INC.
AON Insurance Micronesia (Saipan) Inc.
Good Day Coordinating Inc.
Advance Marine Saipan Corporation
Marianas Visitors Authority
North Shore/Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc.
Ken Aqua Hotel & Resort Inc.
A & T Shipping Service
Pacifica Insurance
Mobil Oil
Inchcape Shipping Services
Mayor's Office
Senator Pete Reyes
Congressman Diego Benavente
Speaker Arnold Palacios
Saipan Delegation
Micronesian Environmental Services (John Gourley)
Dr. Ike Delacruz
Sand Castle Saipan

Former CDA chief Ada wants lawsuit dismissed

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONGRESSIONAL VISIT
Guam Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo poses with Guam National Guardsmen and women during a recent House Armed Services Committee Congressional Delegation to Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The attorney for Maria Lourdes S. Ada on Wednesday filed a motion to dismiss the case that stems from her employment at the Commonwealth Development Authority.

Lawyer Mark B. Hanson filed the motion in the CNMI Superior Court, stating the Attorney General's claims against his client "are deficient in both substance and form."

The lawsuit brought against Ada in July said she violated regulations during her tenure as executive director of the Commonwealth Development Authority by having her sick leave converted into vacation time and then later exchanging that unused time for cash, a move that gained her over $59,000.

Ada served as CDA's head from 1998 until her retirement in 2005, and is now a member of the Board of Education.

In the motion, Hanson said the CDA is self-administering and administrative expenses, including salaries and benefits to the board and CPA employees, are not related to funds of the Executive Branch or the Commonwealth government.

According to the motion, the "Attorney General is inappropriately meddling in the affairs of CDA," and CNMI does not have standing to bring the suit.

"The present allegations by the Attorney General on behalf of the Commonwealth are nothing more than an attempt to embarrass and humiliate Ms. Ada for no reason other than Ms. Ada is one of many CDA employees that received benefits from CDA with which the Attorney General now disagrees," Hanson wrote in the motion.

In the lawsuit, the AG's office said Ada converted her sick leave to paid vacation time after a memorandum from then CDA chair Juan Tenorio told her and staff this was an accepted practice and that the time could later be "cashed out."

A prior CDA policy statement, however, had already said that converting the time violated regulations but the complaint notes that Ada nevertheless continued doing it and also encouraged her staff to accept cash payments for sick leave. This activity later caught the eye of a public auditor and an inquiry followed.

"The allegations appear to be in substance that Ms. Ada wrongly followed the instructions of Chairman Juan S. Tenorio and encouraged the staff of CDA to follow the Chairman's instructions," the motion states.

Tinian gaming commission probes Korean casino bid

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

TINIAN—A team of officials with the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission are now in Seoul to investigate a Korean company that recently unveiled plans to build a multi-million dollar casino on the island.

In an interview Thursday, Donald Hofschnieder, the commission's acting director, said six commission staff members and two researchers are on an "investigative trip" in Seoul now to meet with officials of the Neo Gold Wings Paradise Saipan Corp., gain insight into the company's finances, and review plans for the $200 million resort it has proposed to construct.

Commission officials said in an Aug. 8 statement the corporation has submitted the license application and paid all the required fees for the project, which calls for building a $200 million resort, including a 1,000-room hotel, a casino, a water park, and a golf course. The ongoing financial review, the next step in the licensing process, could determine whether the project moves forward.

Principal shareholders in the corporation include its chairman and president, Myung In Hyun, and Kwi Dong Woo, its Saipan chairman. Corporate officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The application marks the latest new tourism project taking shape on Tinian. Early construction has already begun on the Tinian Oceanview Resort and Condominiums, a project by the Bridge Investment Group. Meanwhile, the Marianas Resort Development Co. on Aug. 15 presented the futuristic design for a major 405-room hotel and resort it plans to build.

new wave dental
Guarantee Lowest Prices On Island!
Tooth-Whitening Upper & Lower Custom Trays $99
Tooth-Cleaning Special
$65 for 1 1/2 hr. Appointment
"Betel Busters"
$42 for regular 1 hr cleaning
Featuring
premier
ENAMEL PRO™
Enamel Pro has ACP (Amorphous Calcium Phosphate) which works synergistically with Fluoride to remineralize tooth enamel!
OPEN AFTER WORK AND SCHOOL AND SATURDAYS TOO!
233-3300 • MIDDLE ROAD, GARAPAN

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUMMER BASH
(SAT) August 30, 2008
1:00pm - 6:00pm
* FUN!! Pool & Beach Activities
* Live Performance
Special Guest:
The Big Beats Band
* Get Wonderful Prizes!
* Food & Drink Items Sold
FREE ENTRANCE!!
COME & HAVE FUN!!
Good-bye Summer Stay Plan
$77.00/ nite
Inc. Sunday Brunch for 2
Sponsored by:
JOETEN ENTERPRISES INCORPORATED
KIOSK
National Office Supply
PEPSI
PTI
S2 CLUB DIVE MARINE SPORTS
Sol Azul
Ty & Tia Pearl Shoes
For inquiry, please call 670-322-3311
Palms Resort Saipan

Glushko's Academy
• Ballet classes for all ages (3y.o. – Adult)
• Jazz, Hip-Hop & Modern Dance Class for Children ages 7-12.
• "Teenzone" – modern dance team for teenagers
• Dance Aerobic & Fitness class for adults.
All students of the Academy will take part in the Christmas performance of classic ballet of "Swan Lake" that would be staged together with guest ballet professionals from Russia, Korea & Japan in December 2008.
For information call: 483-6271, e-mail: glushkosacademy@yahoo.com

'Some laws contributed to Fund's deterioration'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The deterioration of the Retirement Fund, according to Fund board chair Juan T. Guerrero, could be blamed in large part on several laws that ate away at the Fund's solvency.

Guerrero said the Legislature continued to pass laws that have added to the fiscal emergency of the Fund.

The chairman stressed this point in comments he had on Senate Bill 16-36, which seeks to allow the Fund to pay pensions proportionate to employer contributions.

He said that in October 2007, House Bill 15-277 was vetoed by the governor, but overridden by the Legislature creating Public Law 15-98. This allowed Fund members with up to 15 years of government service to withdraw their employee contributions.

In order to comply with this law, Guerrero said the Fund was forced to liquidate assets to meet payment demands.

"This law is a further deterioration of the Fund's assets, as well as drastically accelerating the cash outflow, during a stock market downward cycle, effectively locking in our investment losses," he said.

Public Law 15-26, on the other hand, mandated a reduction in the employer contribution from 36.7 percent to 18 percent for all salaries paid out of the general fund, with the difference to be deemed as a liability of the government that will not be excused or waived. That law was enacted in January 2008.

In May 2008, Public Law 16-2 was enacted. According to Guerrero, this law acknowledged that the government was unable to meet the employer contribution of 18 percent mandated by Public Law 15-126. He said this law set the employer contribution at 11 percent for all employers.

With respect to Senate Bill 16-36, Guerrero said its initial draft set a provision for the Fund to reimburse members who receive proportionate pension the difference of their full pension if the employer contribution is paid within six months.

He said the Senate amended the six-month provision to two years and now the House has further amended this provision so that it will be perpetual.

"The refund translates to not just the Fund's lost opportunity from investment income. It will also force the board to liquidate their investment in order to meet the Fund's payment obligations," he said.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP08-GOV- 094

Program Management: CNMI Water Task Force

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Request for Proposals for Program Management for the Water Task Force on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after **August 22, 2008.**

Questions regarding this Request for Proposal must be submitted in writing to **CNMI Water Task Force**, by facsimile to **(670) 664-2279**, no later than **Friday, September 05, 2008.**

Four (4) copies plus one original of the sealed Proposals must be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than **2:00 p.m., (CNMI local time), on September 19, 2008**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All Proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Lieutenant Governor

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 664-3500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@saipan.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.com

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Construction Management (CM) services for the Saipan International Airport Runway Rehabilitation Package II Phase I Project, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, AIP Nos. 3-69-0002-50/53.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. Overall construction management experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. Construction management experience related to CPA projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA);
3. Level of proficiency in performing construction management services promptly and level of experience with the FAA and AIP grants;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of CM work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable and a valid CNMI business license.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., September 19, 2008.**

Statement of qualification must be submitted along with company brochures and completed U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

All inquiries must be directed to the Acting Executive Director of CPA. The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would in its best interest.

Submit the Statement of Qualification to:

Acting Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
PO Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ LEE C. CABRERA
Acting Executive Director

Date: August 19, 2008

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that a Special Meeting of the Board will be held on Friday, August 22, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room in Garapan, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll Call

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

IV. MORTGAGE CREDIT PROGRAMS
   A. Status of Participating Banks
      1. BankPacific
      2. Bank of Hawaii
   B. Loan Processing Procedures
   C. Other Loan Matters

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VI. OTHER MATTERS

XI. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: Pursuant to PL 8-41, Section 13(6) and (7), some discussion of the above may be under Executive Session.

MERCED (MARCIE) M. TOMOKANE
Vice Chairwoman of the Board

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 22, 2000

Easing of gun control sparks debate in House
Legislation aimed at luring resort developments offering shooting practice and target ranges sparked debate yesterday in the House of Representatives after some members balked at the proposal to ease use of handguns in the Northern Marianas. HB 12-212, sponsored by House Floor Leader Oscar M. Babauta, narrowly passed with six "yes" votes against four "no" votes, while four others abstained. An amendment to the Weapons Control Act, the measure now heads to the Senate for action.

Govt spending down significantly
While the Tenorio Administration's cost-cutting measures allowed the continued delivery of basic social services to the Northern Marianas community, the austerity program can only go to a certain extent unless supplemented by concrete actions that would spur growth in the turtle-paced rally of the local economy. Faced with the task of efficiently running the government through limited funding, the Commonwealth is also rushing to identify potential business activities that may save further collapse of the economy in order to nourish public coffers.

Extortion, drugs eyed in Chalan Piao killing
Two weeks after Hong Kong Chinese Kim Fai Tse was gunned down by unidentified men at BBQ Restaurant in Chalan Piao, police investigators are now looking into the possible connection of prostitution, gambling, extortion, and drugs to the killing. So far police have not arrested any suspect in the murder of Tse. His 35-year-old woman companion who was seriously wounded in the dawn attack has been placed under protective custody of the Department of Public Safety.

August 22, 2001

Breakwater study done by October
Results of the reconnaissance and assessment study on the present condition of the breakwater on Tinian and on Rota are expected to be completed in October, according to the United States Department of Army. Army Commanding officer Robert B. Flowers said the assessment of the potential navigational improvements at Rota and Tinian harbors started last March.

Proposed ban on harmful detergents gains ground
Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig has vowed to support the passage of a bill that seeks to prohibit the sale, manufacture, distribution or use of detergents containing phosphate, saying that such a bill is necessary for the protection of the environment. Atalig said in an interview yesterday that he supports House Bill 12-167, or the Phosphate Detergent Act, 100 percent and that he will push for the measure's passage during the next Senate session.

Senate to review procurement process
The Senate will push through with its oversight hearing on Thursday and Friday to take up the procurement process of the government, in a bid to identify weaknesses in the system and come up with corresponding solutions. This was assured by Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano, even as he said that the oversight hearing does not only intend to identify problems but also to map out ways of making the system more efficient and faster.

August 22, 2002

Anti-corruption unit mulled
Faced with a growing pile of referrals from the Office of the Public Auditor, the Attorney General's Office is planning to create a unit comprised of two lawyers that would solely handle public corruption cases and the collection of funds owed to the CNMI government. Attorney General Robert T. Torres told reporters yesterday that his office is mulling the creation of the Public Corruption and Debt Collection Unit, in response to the accumulating referrals from the OPA that have been outstanding for many years already.

Task force formed to address NMI's groundwater problems
The Division of Environmental Quality has formed a groundwater task force that will pool inter-agency efforts to address Saipan's groundwater problem. Based on a study conducted by the U.S. Environmental Agency in 2000, several water wells in at least four villages on Saipan-San Antonio, As Lito, Lower Base and Puerto Rico-have been drawing water from aquifers contaminated with volatile organic compounds exceeding the maximum contaminant levels allowed for human consumption.

JOETEN'S

Back 2 School Sale

Bargain In Every Aisle!

Sale starts on Aug. 22 to 27

Best Buys!

Marble Composition Notebook
$1.39

Mead 150 Sheet Filler Paper
$1.89

Best Buys!

Mead Construction Paper 9x12
$2.19

Crayola Crayons 24's
$2.49

Best Buys!

Pencil No. 2 10 cts.
99¢ea.

School Glue 4oz.
69¢ea.

Best Buys!

Portpolio 2 Pocket Assorted
4 for $1.00

Crayola Modeling Clay
$2.69

Canvas Binder 1.5' 3 Rings
$3.99

Steadler Math Set
$4.49

Lantern Heavy Duty Battery
$7.99

Multi Drawer Organizer
$42.99

Beach Chair
$13.99

Banana Leaf Basket Wire Frames
$7.99

Banana Leaf Basket Wire Frames
$9.99

Banana Leaf Basket Wire Frames
$14.99

Gillette Good News Disposable Shavers
$2.19

Lucky Styling Gel 16oz.
$1.49

Soft N' Nice Cotton Balls 300ct.
$1.39

Aquamarine Lotion 14.8oz.
$1.49

Sunsilk Shampoo or Conditioner 12oz.
$3.99

Lander Bubble Bath 25oz.
$1.59

Check out new arrivals Men's, Ladies, Boys, Girls & Infants clothing!

USPad

Look for these and more great savings th r

U.S. Baby Carrots
$1.45 bg.

Green Cabbage
69¢ lb.

Yellow Onions
65¢ lb.

U.S. Cauli Flower
$1.19 lb.

U.S. Sleeved Celery
99¢ lb.

U.S. Avocado
$1.19 ea.

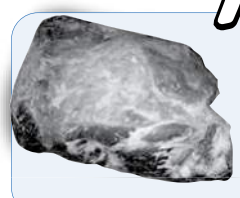
Sweet Oranges
$1.05 lb.

U.S. Fuji Apples
$1.49 lb.

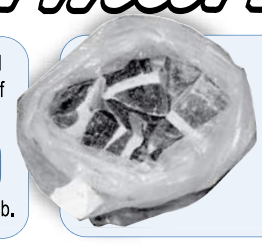
U.S. Extra Large Eggs 1 Dzn
$2.89 dz.

Visit us for more savings at our Produce section!

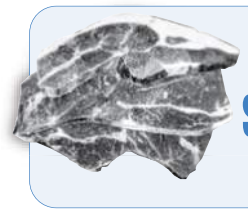
Supermarket



New Zealand Boneless Beef Clod
$1.99 /lb.



New Zealand Beef For Stew Family Bag 7lb.
$14.99



New Zealand Short Plate Steak Family Bag 8lb.
$15.99 /bg.

Chicken Leg Quarter 22lb./case
$18.99 /cs.

US Pork Spareribs 20lbs./case
$19.99 /cs.

New Zealand Mussels 1/2 Shell 2.2lb.
$5.99 /ea.

Asahi Sugar 4.4 lb.
$1.79 /ea.

Kikkoman Soy Sauce 1.6 liter
$3.99 /ea.

Hafa Adai Water 24/350ml.
$6.50 /cs.

ACE Diamonds Tuna in water 7oz.
99¢ /ea.

Soft N Gentle Bathroom Tissue 4 Roll
$1.99 /ea.

Zee Napkins 120 ct.
$2.29 /ea.

So Dri Paper Towel 1 Roll
$1.49 /ea.

Bud Family Beer Can
$24.98 /cs.
$12.49 12pk.

Miller Family Beer Can
$24.98 /cs.
$12.49 12pk.

Come for more selections!

Aiko's SNACK BAR

Accepts Phone Orders

Lunch is available Monday through Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please call 234-6445 for daily specials!

Joeten Shopping Center

P.O. Box 500137 Saipan, MP 96950 - Tel. 234-6446/48 Fax. 234-5876

Thank you for shopping at all Joeten Stores: Joeten Shopping Center Susupe, Hafa Adai Shopping Center, Dandan Shopping Center and Big Bargain Chalan Piao

We accept major credit cards - We welcome Foodstamps - We reserve the right to limit quantities We are not responsible for any typo errors

We are not responsible for any typographical or printing error

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 235

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Patience in Pakistan

Democracy has not been a roaring success in Pakistan. When Pervez Musharraf seized power from a democratically elected government in a 1999 military coup, there was nearly as much celebration in the streets as there was on Monday when he announced his resignation as president, so corrupt and unpopular were the kleptocrats he unseated.

Yet for all the worries that the country's new democratic leaders will fail as spectacularly as the old ones did, Pakistan and the world have ample reason to cheer Monday's events. Military dictators don't often voluntarily cede power to civilian authorities. And, to paraphrase Winston Churchill, although democracy in Pakistan has proved to be a particularly messy form of government, it still beats all the others that have been tried.

In Washington, the biggest worry following Musharraf's departure concerns Pakistan's cooperation in the war on terrorism, particularly in combating Islamist militants who cross the border to battle U.S. troops in Afghanistan. Yet Musharraf was an unreliable ally at best on that front, and ever since he stepped down as head of Pakistan's army last year, he has been a less important partner in the fight against the Taliban than the new army chief, Gen. Ashfaq Kayani. The latter is seen as an ally with strong ties to the CIA, so U.S. counterterrorism officials don't foresee changes in the military relationship, at least in the short term.

More problematic is the future of the country's government. About the only thing Pakistan's fractious ruling coalition can agree on is its disdain for Musharraf. Now a bruising fight for the presidency is under way between the two strongest parties: the Pakistan People's Party, led by Asif Ali Zardari, and the Muslim League-N, led by Nawaz Sharif. Either of these men would prove disastrous as Musharraf's successor. Zardari, the widower of assassinated former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, is reputed to have accumulated a fortune by collecting bribes and kickbacks when his wife was in power, while Sharif's two terms as prime minister were marked by corruption, power grabs and suspensions of civil liberties, culminating with his displacement by Musharraf's coup.

There are other candidates in the running, but it's unclear whether any has the expertise to cope with the country's most daunting challenges -- runaway inflation, religious extremism and ongoing conflict with India. The political strife to come will probably make many Pakistanis nostalgic for the relative stability of military rule. Yet democracy can and will work even in parts of the world where so far it has seemed a dismal failure. All it takes is a little patience; Pakistan's people and army just need to provide it.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

Encouraging increased foreign investment

Last of a four-part series

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian and military cartographer.

In the past the NMI government has mostly reacted toward investment proposals brought to it from the outside. With several exceptions such as the various government efforts in Korea, Japan and Taiwan, the effort has been somewhat passive as opposed to being aggressive in seeking out new investors, particularly those from the mainland United States. While I participated in several investment missions in the past that were well organized, there was little follow up with advertising in appropriate business journals such as the Far East Economic Review or the Asian Wall Street Journal. Nor, to my knowledge, have investment promotional ads in U. S. mainland newspapers and journals or those of Asian nations been purchased. This type of advertising is very expensive and no doubt budget constraints have been the reason. But the old adage still holds true: "You have to spend money to make money."

A useful promotional tool is a generic hotel financial feasibility analysis to generate initial investor's interest in this industry. Such an analysis displays the profit potential for a typical island resort hotel or tourist attraction and is based on realistic income projections. The analysis should indicate the number of guests required to achieve the various occupancy levels.

Financial feasibility studies are not market analyses. They can tell you how many guests you need to break even but they do not address the methods to achieve those results. The other side of the process is destination promotion and that's where a variety of marketing tools and programs are essential. MVA is well aware of this.

Proposed project analyses must also describe other factors for doing business in the Commonwealth, and are useful to government promotional agencies, private developers and brokers to convince investors that the area is a profitable place to do business.

Having been involved in such activity since the late 1950s in many areas of the world, including the United States, Tunisia, Thailand, Ghana, Ivory Coast, the Bahamas, Palau and, of course, the Northern Marianas, I have had the opportunity to consider this effort from widely different perspectives and over a time span of more than three and one-half decades. The following is what I have observed.

In any foreign investment promotion program, the area's business opportunities must be brought to the attention of potential investors as well as the location of the geographic area, and its "business climate." By that I mean laws relating to business, and any advantage, comparative or otherwise, which makes the islands a profitable place from which to conduct a particular business.

Unlike the economic sectors of manufacturing, agriculture, fishing and so forth, the tourist sector of any economy is the only sector that, by necessity, strives to inject an ever increasing number of visitors into an area. It goes without saying that more visitors require more hotel rooms, rent-a-cars, banking services and a myriad of entertainment forms and all these activities must be staffed by skilled, reliable employees.

The drafters of legislation effecting either existing or potentially new businesses must realistically examine the situation from the investor's viewpoint. In order to do this, one must recognize two factors basic to the issue. Given the fierce competition for foreign investment among countries around the Pacific rim, the islands should abandon the attitude that they are doing a potential investor of a large project a favor by letting him do business in the area. It is actually the other way around: the businessman making a large capital investment does the area a great service by investing within its borders.

When businessmen and women review the business potential of an area, no factor escapes analysis, most of all the so-called "business climate" and the experience of other foreign investors in the area.

As I have mentioned previously in this column it is worthwhile considering that development itself cannot be "legislated" as is so commonly thought on the islands. Only the legal environment known as the "business climate" under which such investment is expected to thrive can be established by an area's legislative body and even then there is no guarantee investment will result, but such legislation is, in a real sense, a "welcome mat."

One of the measures of how badly an area wants foreign investment may be gleaned from the incentives it offers. These can take various forms, several of which follow as examples found in the various states in the United States as well as other countries.

- The provision of adequate infrastructure including reliable and sustained power and water is absolutely basic;
- Training of employees at government expense;
- Provision of access roads to business sites not presently adjacent to a public highway;
- Provision of utility lines (water, power, sewer) to the business property line when such sites are not located along such facilities;
- Assistance with the leasing or construction of shell buildings for lease with an option to buy or outright purchase;
- Duty free importation of raw materials equipment and supplies (when not for resale within the area as, for example, in a free trade zone);
- Private sector operation of a Free Trade Zone;
- Tax holiday;
- Provide a guarantee against an increase in taxes for a specified period. This need not necessarily be confined solely to foreign investment but can be directed to new local business investment as well.
- Research and provide basic geographic, economic, business and legal information for the potential investor's review in a single, published package;
- Identify and document business opportunities open to foreign investors. Where it is possible to do so include a financial feasibility study and/or a marketing analysis for the project the government wishes to encourage. Provide potential projects with a "paper personality" for the potential investor's review and analysis;

See ENCOURAGING on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Strategic moves, island issues

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com

Talk about a turbo-charged news month; My Aug. 8 column took a look at the specter of an arms race on Saipan's Asian doorstep, and just as we contemplated those pieces on our strategic chess board, a large bear paw rearranged the entire game. I refer, of course, to Russian tanks tanking a summer jaunt into Georgia.

This is no merely academic subject for the Commonwealth. Given the CNMI's sorry economic management, the only substantial economic action it can possibly land is U.S. defense bucks, as Guam and, perhaps, the NMI enjoy a strategic limelight in an increasingly tense world.

And, already adding to an already eventful month is this: Word is circulating that the U.S. Navy is trying to gauge the interest of local contractors, which I assume means that military investments are a distinct possibility.

Just for the heck of it, let's ponder a scenario in which active duty personnel are stationed in the Commonwealth. I don't know if this will happen, but, given that it's the only bright economic star on the horizon, it's worth looking at. What remains of the Commonwealth business community would certainly welcome the financial action that an increased military presence might offer.

An injection of money wouldn't be the only benefit of some sort of naval presence. If there are people being permanently stationed, the intellectual capital that the military offers can be substantial. Military veterans frequently make excellent business leaders after they settle into civilian life. The Navy, for example, produces nuclear engineers, doctors, pilots, logistics experts, dentists, and all sorts of capable technicians. These are just the kind of professionals that not only defend the seas, but, in civil roles, also move economies forward.

Of course, the average folks in Saipan would certainly welcome the military and the jobs it would bring to the community. However, the military doesn't have to kowtow to the local government hierarchy that is the determinant of status and power in this economy. Status is a zero-sum game, and the Commonwealth has some egos that feel threatened by outside expertise or status.

That's no small issue. I saw parts of the Japanese tourism industry get clobbered by this fact. (If the Koreans think they'll fare any better, I can assure you that they won't, and that, eventually, if they keep succeeding, they'll run into various and sundry hardships and scapegoating, some of it overt, some behind the scenes, but I digress.)

If there was to be a substantial (say, a few hundred or more personnel) military presence in the Commonwealth, I think things would evolve thusly: First, there would be euphoria that a source of money has been found. Existing businesses would flourish, and new businesses would take root. Once that honeymoon was over, however, some people, long entrenched here politically, would resent their perceived loss of comparative status. The military would then become a scapegoat for the Commonwealth's ills. Activists, some of them motivated by power-plays, and others just unhappy people looking for a new crusade, would spring up. Issues of "pride" and "community" would start to get traction, which would slide into an "us vs. them" gig in short order, and the military would be blamed for everything from chronic gingivitis to high cable television prices.

I've seen this happen before in similar venues. I know the dynamics. I know the factors.

I think a military presence would be a great benefit to the Commonwealth. I'd certainly welcome it. And so would my friends. But my friends and I don't set policy in the Commonwealth.

Indigenous Rights Group organizes

The Indigenous Rights Group has begun organizational work headed by former Speaker Oscar C. Rasa and other members of the Northern Marianas community. As of this writing, over 3,000 people have registered as members of the local organization. It is a purpose-driven non-partisan group focusing on educating local governance of their inalienable rights to a greater degree of self-government.

Personally, I admire their dedicated efforts to renew the indigenous community's understanding of its right to self-government, reconnect them with their ancestral past and rights, including time-honored traditions revolving around the land and the sea; overcome the legacy of neo-colonialism and the old assumption of white supremacy and to find a way of life that is both modern yet true to the traditions of the indigenous people.

The emergence of this group was prompted by the apparent negligence of elected public officials (over the last two decades) to hold the United States responsible to its commitment. That commitment is an inherent provision of law (48 USC Section 1801). It mandates the federal government to provide "for a progressively higher standard of living" for the people of these isles. But most local leadership must have been snoozing, acquiescing the sale not of items on the shelf, but the store itself.

Given the obvious shortsightedness of new federal laws on labor and immigration, the regressive policies will annihilate whatever is left of an already dismal local economy. It will do nothing but force a quick drop to 42 percent of current investments and destroy pending investments in the horizon.

A glimpse of the history of the Covenant agreement is rich with supportive statements of proponents during negotiations and hearings in the '70s. The late U.S. Congressman Phil Burton came out strongly (regarding policy changes under the agreement by the U.S. Congress) that any shift must be made in favor of the CNMI. This was re-echoed by former Alaskan Senator Murkowsky.

There's vision inherent in his (Burton's) statement fully wary of the fragility and dangers of a helpless people (U.S. congressional representation-deprived) being whimsically subjected to punitive policies. The recent approval of federal takeover of labor and immigration is a glaring example of a punitive policy that has placed current investments at bay while forcing future investors to drop anchor outside our shores.

It should be understood that the CNMI is not just another territory. Its relationship with the U.S. is unique. If the CNMI were a territory then such provisions as "land alienation" wouldn't have been included nor would such issues as "mutual consent" be made part of the accord. Obviously, those who have ventured treating these isles as a territory have a lot to learn in vvterms of the history of the Agreement.

The Agreement is the foundation upon which greater degree of self-government awaits improvement and strengthening of our democratic institutions. The political maturation process may be slow, but it must be allowed room to grow. The Agreement isn't the final pit stop in improving upon our relationship with the federal government. In brief, it is the first step or new beginning in the long march toward greater effective home rule.

The Indigenous Rights Group's agenda transcends any and all political persuasions. It's a focused effort to educate our people of their "inalienable rights" to self-government inherent in the Agreement. This should foster clarity of understanding of the need, especially from the other side of the Pacific divide, to exercise due diligence in any and all proposed policy shifts.

My friend from up north wanted to know why the contentious feud between the feds and these isles. I wasted no time declaring, "It's a power ego trip enveloped in the show of the tyranny of the majority. They must have forgotten the common denominator being the governance of these isles." The common man suffers the consequence of half-cocked policies. I can't fathom the arrogance and failure of detractors. Well, so much for "…and crown they good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea." He remains guardedly hopeful for better days where synergistic working relationships turn reality.

Letter to the Editor

CNMI: Conflicted Northern Mariana Islands

Conflict of interest is defined as the circumstance of a public office-holder, business executive, or the like, whose personal interests might benefit from his or her official actions or influence.

Saipan Tribune's story "Fitial nominates three to CPA board," published on Wednesday Aug. 20, 2008, exposed another near disastrous decision by Benigno Fitial, whom I outright refuse to address as "Governor." Benigno Fitial never ceases to amaze me. One of his nominees to the CPA board of directors (Frank Camacho) declined the nomination, I assume due to his association with Pacific Oriental Inc., which by the way is a tenant of Saipan International Airport conducting all their business activities at the airport. Kudos to Frank Camacho for declining the nomination—I'll assume it was his business ethics that guided him to decide in the overall best interest of the CNMI and his employer.

I can't say the same for previous CPA board member Antonio S. Camacho, owner or executive or both of Westpac Freight whose business activities take place at both the airport and seaport on Saipan. Sadly, Antonio probably never thought his board membership was a direct conflict of interest. Ignorance is bliss, but inexcusable. I recall bringing this issue up with Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz, who chaired the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication for the 15th Legislature, but all I got was an empty promise from Rep. Dela Cruz that he will "look into it." Sadly, Rep. Dela Cruz was re-elected and is currently serving in the 16th Legislature, although I don't know in what capacity. What a waste of taxpayers' money.

Going back to Benigno, his decision to give full CUC authority to Tim Villagomez is asinine (foolish, unintelligent or stupid) at best. Need I say more? The collateral damage done by Tim Villagomez to Benigno and his beloved Covenant Party is huge and irreversible. My point is, Tim is a former CUC executive and should not have been given the responsibility to run CUC. Benigno and Tim should immediately cut their losses by resigning and forget about re-election. I will campaign like hell against Ben and Tim if they seek re-election. Word of advice to anyone with aspirations to run for office—don't entertain Ben and Tim. In fact, the GOP ought to kick Tim out of the party. I sure as hell have voter's remorse for voting for Ben and Tim—kinda like buyer's remorse, only I can't get my vote back. Darn, I should have insured my vote. Peace!

Banidosu

What is up with John Bolis Gonzales advertising his Grade Point Average (GPA) on his U.S. Congress URL (http://www.gonzales-foruscongress.com/about-john.php)? It smacks of elitism, and quite frankly is pompous and bears absolutely nothing on votes or on job performance.

John, you disappoint me! You carry yourself as a homegrown, grass roots local boy, yet you stop at nothing to gloat in your glory. Let the diploma and certificates speak for themselves on your wall of fame at home or at your office wherever they may be. You need not speak on their behalf. Focus on the issues killing the CNMI and how you'll prepare yourself for the halls of the Capitol in Washington D.C.

Keep it real, John. The GPA thing is your first, and I hope last blemish.

Philip Leyland
Navy Hill, Saipan

ENCOURAGING

From Page 10

■ Where necessary, identify local joint venture participants and the potential site for the endeavor free of any potential Article XII problem;

■ Promote (advertise) the opportunity in international media;

■ Fully service all inquires for information from potential interested investors;

■ Check the financial and character references of all foreign investors when a joint venture with local parties is planned;

■ Provide all possible assistance during the initial startup of the enterprise;

■ Assist in the preparation of any require environmental impact analysis and if need be, assist in the mitigation process.

The above will constitute an aggressive foreign investment program and it will cost money. Results shouldn't be expected to occur overnight.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86	▼77
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Yap	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼72
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼75
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼75

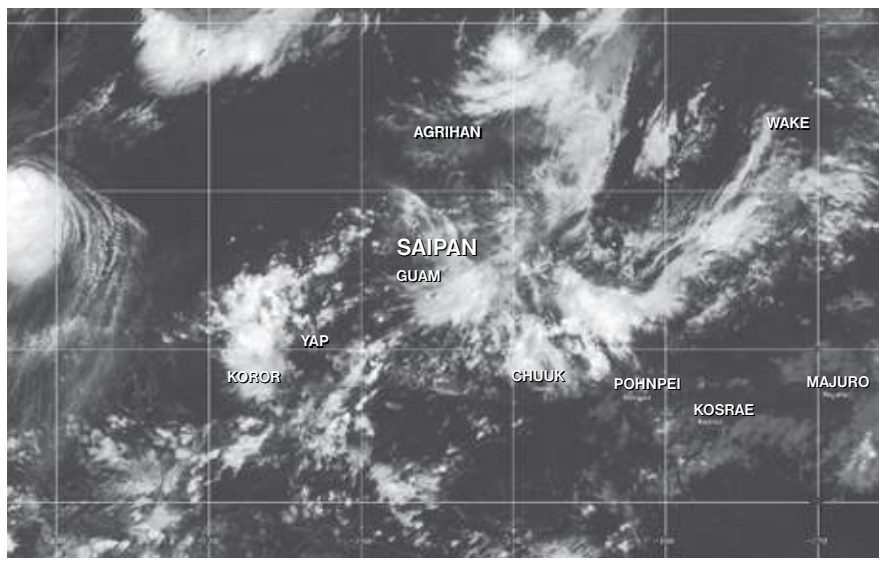
Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲61	▼48
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼66
Hong Kong	Rain	▲86	▼77
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼76
London	Showers	▲68	▼55
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲79	▼66
Manila	Cloudy	▲91	▼79
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲51	▼42
Miami	Cloudy	▲88	▼78
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼67
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲80	▼75
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲76	▼52
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼70
Rome	Sunny	▲89	▼65
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼51
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲73	▼56
Seoul	Rain	▲79	▼61
Tokyo	Showers	▲77	▼64
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼68

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
5:25AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
11:35AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
5:16PM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
11:02PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:20PM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends northward from 3N138E to 17N145E. Convergence east of the trough combined with upper-level divergence are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north and northwest of Palau or within 90 miles of a line from 15N133E to 7N133E. An upper-level trough extends northeastward from 11N157E through an upper-level low centered at 24N161E to beyond 25N at 170E. Extensive cloud cover, scattered showers and a few thunderstorms can be found east of the trough northwest of Wake Island or between 29N149E to 27N154N to 25N147E back to 29N149E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms enhanced by upper-level divergence south of the trough are located east of the Marianas between 15N146E to 15N153E to 11N157E to 9N150E to 12N146E back to 15N146E. Trade-wind convergence is causing a large area of widely scattered showers southeast of Majuro or within 90 miles of a line from 2N173E to 6N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:03AM	6:36 PM
Saturday	6:04AM	6:35 PM
Sunday	6:04AM	6:35 PM
Monday	6:04AM	6:34 PM
Tuesday	6:04AM	6:33 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:15PM	10:31AM
Saturday	11:05PM	11:31AM
Sunday		12:34AM
Monday	12:02AM	1:38PM
Tuesday	1:03AM	2:41PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $182. Off-island subscription rate is $376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Due diligence

Does due diligence mean anything to our legislators? I am prompted to ask this question as a fallout of the recent "hurry up and pass" House Bill 16-10 (anticipated 2009 poker fee revenues). How does that work anyway? What happens if the revenues are less than $4.7 million? When and in what order do the funds get released to whom? Are there any requirements or restrictions as to what the monies are spent on? Are all government revenues and expense matched up in such a fashion?

So, back to due diligence. According to Rep. Tina Sablan, this bill was introduced and "railroaded"(please excuse the pun) through the House in a single morning. Exactly what was the level of due diligence in its deliberations? It would seem incumbent upon all elected officials, who are to serve the people of the CNMI, to demonstrate a thoroughness of consideration in all bills brought before them.

Let's use as an example the $100,000 earmarked for the newly formed Marianas Trades Institute. It just so happens that I attended a public meeting for the new institute that was conceived and funded by Tony Pellegrino. Mr. Pellegrino informed all those in attendance that this was a non-profit organization dedicated to training the much needed tradespersons for the future CNMI economy. He introduced some of the instructors/trainers and laid out his plans for success. Many of you know how positive and supportive Mr. Pellegrino is, and can no doubt imagine that those in attendance were quite excited about a way to create value for themselves, their families and the CNMI.

I caught the excitement and opportunity of that evening and even met with Tony a few days later to express my support for what he was doing. It is fine for me as a single citizen to be supportive of this institute just because I want to be. Due diligence is not required of me to encourage Mr. Pellegrino and his associates, and to support their efforts (although I personally would be inclined to be duly diligent in the interest of understanding how the institute will be operating). However, as a single citizen I'm allowed to be less rigorous and even be subjective in my feelings, thinking, and research.

Now here's my point! There is a difference between me as a single citizen and the members of the Legislature. They are put in place to serve the people. They have a fiduciary responsibility to look after our interests in all that they do. And when it comes to passing bills and deciding upon funding they must exhibit the highest level of objectivity and due diligence. It's not an option, but a must!

In the case of the Marianas Trades Institute, due diligence might include (but not be limited to) the following:

■ Review the nature of the formal organization, including business licenses, insurances, officers and directors, affiliations, etc.

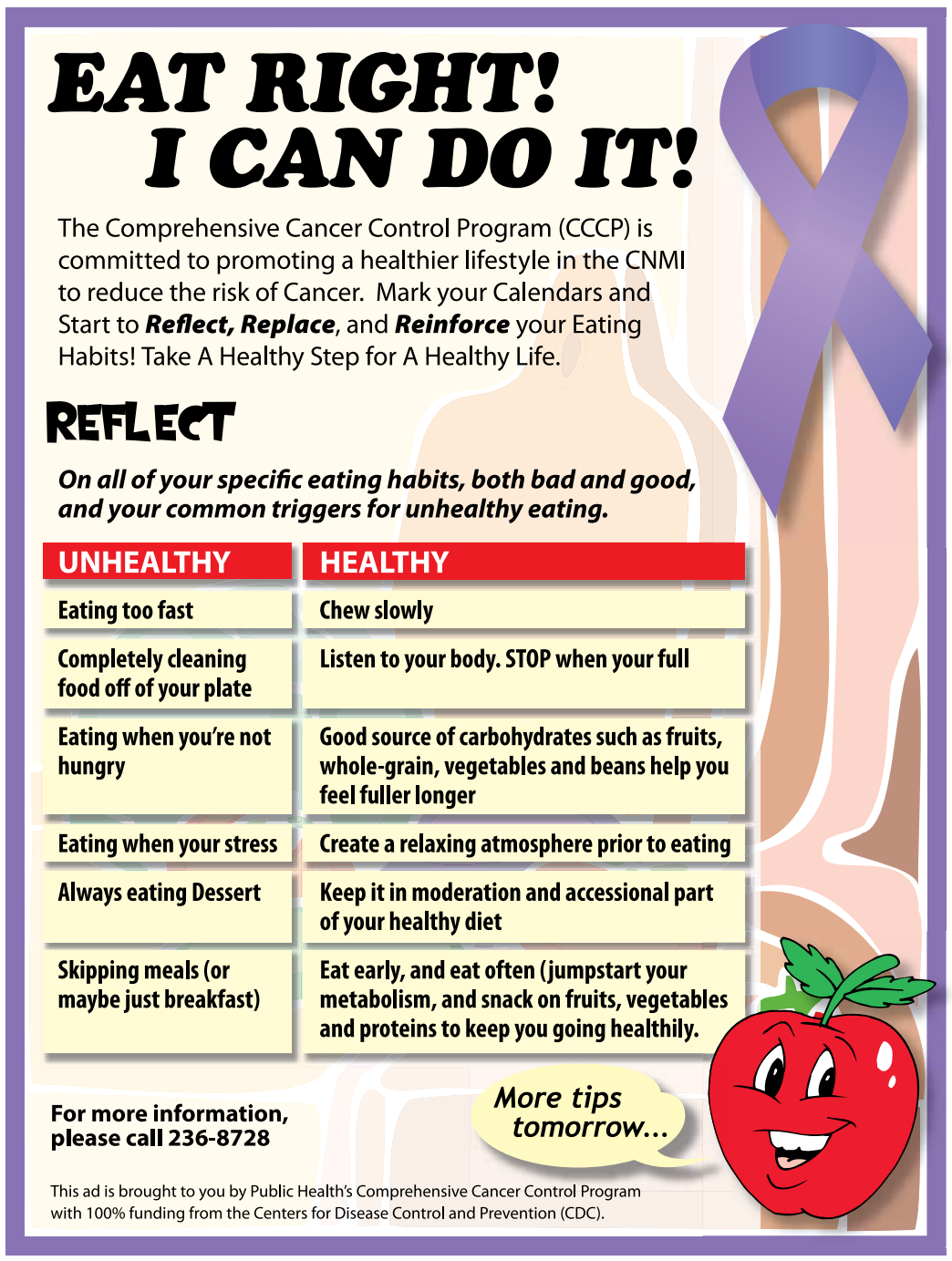
■ Review the business plan, beginning with the mission statement, the scope of training, officers, directors, employees, training facilities, student fees, curriculum and, ultimately, jobs creation.

■ Review the financial data including start-up costs, employee salaries and benefits, and pro forma income and expense statements, cash flow statements and balance sheets.

How much due diligence went on during the deliberations of this bill? I feel certain that many of us would like to know, and am certain that we all deserve to know. Let no one lose sight that all legislators are working for all of us; not just their families, their friends, or themselves. That may sound so obvious, but there is ample evidence that some (if not many) legislators have lost sight of this fundamental obligation. If they fail to behave responsibly they don't deserve to be in office, and we should replace them with others more competent and honest.

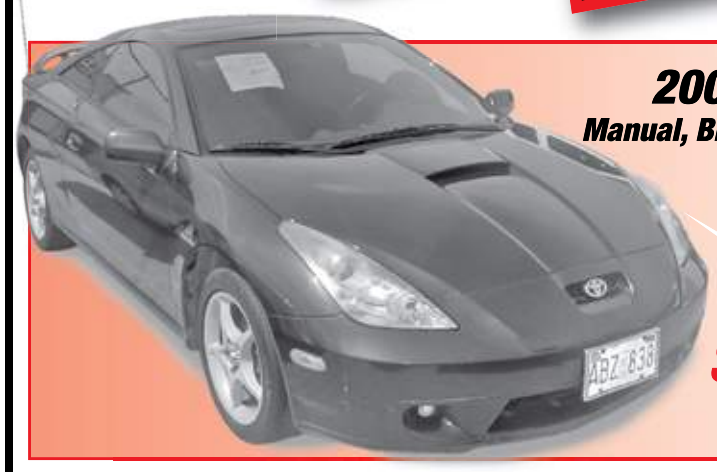
Just thought I'd ask.

Perry Conner
As Matuis, Saipan


EAT RIGHT!
I CAN DO IT!
The Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (CCCP) is committed to promoting a healthier lifestyle in the CNMI to reduce the risk of Cancer. Mark your Calendars and Start to Reflect, Replace, and Reinforce your Eating Habits! Take A Healthy Step for A Healthy Life.
REFLECT
On all of your specific eating habits, both bad and good, and your common triggers for unhealthy eating.
UNHEALTHY
HEALTHY
Eating too fast
Chew slowly
Completely cleaning food off of your plate
Listen to your body. STOP when your full
Eating when you're not hungry
Good source of carbohydrates such as fruits, whole-grain, vegetables and beans help you feel fuller longer
Eating when your stress
Create a relaxing atmosphere prior to eating
Always eating Dessert
Keep it in moderation and accessional part of your healthy diet
Skipping meals (or maybe just breakfast)
Eat early, and eat often (jumpstart your metabolism, and snack on fruits, vegetables and proteins to keep you going healthily.
More tips tomorrow...
For more information, please call 236-8728
This ad is brought to you by Public Health's Comprehensive Cancer Control Program with 100% funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

MICROL TOYOTA

SPECIALS OF THE WEEK



2000 CELICA 2DR
Manual, Blue, Stock: U08-043P
License: ABZ838
Mileage: 72097
PRICE $7,999

USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
TOYOTA SEDANS								
R08-011F	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	65940	SILVER	ACC-154	11,399	
R08-008F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	18576	BEIGE	ADN-161	15,999	
GM CARS								
R08-005F	2005	AV-EO HATCHBACK	AUTO	114073	BLUE	ACB-544	6,999	
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	~~9,599~~	7,599
U08-033R	2005	EPICA 4DR SEDAN	AUTO	21118	BEIGE	ACD-486	8,699	
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	~~10,999~~	9,499
LEXUS								
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	~~29,999~~	28,999
TOYOTA TRUCKS								
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	~~11,899~~	10,999
U08-014P	2004	TACOMA 4X2	MANUAL	44000	WHITE	ACA-948	~~12,499~~	11,999
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR	AUTO	53147	SILVER	ADF-401	~~8,999~~	7,999
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	~~8,999~~	7,999
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	~~16,799~~	15,299
U08-035T	2000	NISSAN ALTIMA GXE 4DR SDN	AUTO	64846	GREEN	ABS-748	6,999	
U08-038T	2001	MITS MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	7,999	
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENIA 4DR.SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	~~7,999~~	7,099
GM SPORT UTILITY								
U08-036T	2002	TRAILBLAZER 4WD	AUTO	36460	RED	ACB-993	9,999	
SPORT UTILITY								
U07-064T	2001	4RUNNER 4WD	AUTO	56882	CHAMPAIGNE	ABY-153	~~14,599~~	12,599
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	~~13,699~~	12,799
R08-007F	2006	RAV4 4DR 2WD LTD	AUTO	20311	WHITE	ACE-344	~~19,185~~	19,099

MICROL TOYOTA
Corner Beach Road and Chalan Mnsr. Guerrero in San Jose
Telephone: 234-5911 | Fax: 234-6514 | www.microlsaipan.com

TOYOTA ACDelco

Vote for change

I'm here in the U.S. with my fellow comrades of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, E. Company for our annual training, then mobilizing to Middle East. While sitting around listening to our guys from Saipan chatting, they appeared to be angry, while others were surprised about the bad news from Saipan. "Hey, did you know that Tim, our Lt. Governor, was indicted?" One person said, "Wow, I don't believe it, the Lt. Governor will do no such a thing." Another person said, "He is such a nice person, I never thought he would do such a thing." In another corner of the group popped another comment, "I'm not surprised, with those corrupted politicians."

My first reaction in my mind was, "Oh my God, I cannot imagine how his children will be affected at school and their peers. They are the innocent in all these problem, and yet they will forever be affected for the rest of their lives. I felt the urge to contribute to the discussion, but I thought if it would really matter. I continued to sit around the training area and listened to the chatting group, only to feel angrier about how our soldiers are concerned about the political corruption problems in the CNMI. Here we are, going to another country to risk our lives to fight another corrupt government, even as it is happening in our own island.

People of the CNMI, if we don't rise up and vote smart for new leaders, this disease of corruption will continue to exist. It irritates me to see veteran politician laugh at the newly elected officials for their inexperience. I see veteran politicians as the experienced ones in the corruption game. It's time for a change in the next election for better lives. Vote for new leaders, vote for change, and for better lives.

SSG Fabian M. Indalecio
San Antonio, Saipan

Retirees as owners of CUC? Could be!

There was an article in Tuesday's paper stating that the Retirement Fund's chairman of the Board of Trustees "is seeking a meeting with Governor Fitial to discuss the possibility of having the local pension program invest in the financially troubled Commonwealth Utilities Corp."

My, oh my, oh my.

I thought that dog of an idea was shot down a couple year's ago when the government wanted to borrow $40 million from the Fund for CUC, (see *Saipan Tribune* archives Aug. 11, 2006, "What Does the Future Hold?).

Could it be that the chairman sees an opportunity the rest of us have missed, for instance take revenue from CUC's exorbitant rates and invest in a candle making factory?

Since Retirement Fund members have property rights in their investment in the Fund's portfolio, could this mean that members would then have stock ownership shares issued on the basis of a prorated contribution toward the investment in CUC and then their chosen board of directors could hire the chief executive or would the Governor remain the CEO in terms of overriding decisions made by the board?

If the Fund were to make an investment in CUC, how would member's ownership shares be determined? Would CUC's huge debt obligations be part of the "acquisition" package and paid off from the initial invested funds? If so, there is no asset value in return for that money? How much of the investment would go for equipment and how much to pay off creditors?

As I read the article in the paper, the possible deal would not be a loan but an investment. There is a *big* difference. A loan has to be repaid with interest; an investment is very risky particularly when everyone knows the government's record with its purchases and "buyouts." Recall the San Roque mall debacle.

If investing in CUC is such a good deal, why doesn't such successful firms as UMDA go for it? Or a private bank or even the Asian Development Bank (assuming they can lend to a U.S. Commonwealth—I'm not certain).

Oh, I know the chairman might say, "We only want to invest in the utility, not own it." Not necessarily true. If you are the major investor, you have the power to control decisions and that's something you would really want from the deal, considering CUC's dismal track record concerning everything from providing inadequate maintenance to financial management and everything in between.

Will CUC have to issue a formal prospectus describing the offering? Will registration with the U.S. Security and Exchange Commission be required? A smart lawyer could probably make a case that it could be construed as a "pubic offering."

If such a deal goes through and the Fund lends several million to CUC, it will certainly present a lot of legal issues. The attorneys will love it since some view the Fund as a real "money pot."

The chairman was quoted as saying, "the Fund's interest in investing in CUC is still at an exploratory stage and will only proceed upon the advice of financial experts."

I sincerely hope the "experts" conduct thorough internal rate of return analyses. In my book they would certainly be obligated to do so. The IRR is a very helpful tool and standard procedure when comparing several competing investment opportunities, which, of course, the financial advisors should do. I'll be watching that process with interest. For those unfamiliar with internal rates of return, an explanation may be "Googled."

Meanwhile, I suggest Fund members who are interested in the long-term financial security of their pensions contact the Fund chairman and your friendly legislators and let them know your desire in the matter.

I must say, I find something strange when a government employee invests part of his or her earnings in a government pension plan, only to have the administrators of that plan (and thus the member's money) devise a way to get it back to the government to in turn spend on a decrepit, inefficiently managed utility that the government should have overseen and properly managed in the first place. As my dear sweet granny would say, "Billy, have you taken leave of your senses to invest in CUC?"

By the way, whatever happened to the civil lawsuit #06-00367 the Fund filed on Sept. 11, 2007, against the central government for non-payment of its financial obligation? Am I the only one that finds something incongruent in this potential incestuous relationship on the part of the possible relationship between the Fund and CUC?

William H. Stewart
Charleston, W.Va.

KIA

2008 Summer Sales Event

The New 2008 Kia Rio

"HIGHEST RANKED SUB-COMPACT CAR IN INITIAL QUALITY, TWO YEARS IN A ROW"
—J.D. Power and Associates

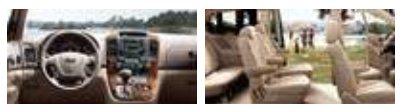
The Rio comes standard with class-leading safety features, including six airbags, impact-absorbing steering column, front and rear crumple zones and side-impact door beams. And, best of all, you'll get outstanding estimated highway fuel economy of 35 mpg.

The Award-Winning Sedona

A RECIPIENT OF THE CONSUMERS DIGEST BEST BUY AWARD

"★★★★★" 5-STAR CRASH SAFETY –NHTSA

The island's most affordable 7-passenger mini van is available now. The Sedona is designed to be safer, roomier and packed with a wealth of style, luxury and convenience features to get you and your family from one adventure to the next. Sedona comes standard with six strategicly placed airbags positioned throughout the vehicle to give you and your family peace of mind.



2007 MODELS CLEARANCE

NISSAN	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
Versa HB	#7L360734	Blue	$15,990.00
Versa S	#7L398849	White	$15,990.00
~~Frontier SE~~	~~#7C40890~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$26,990.00~~

KIA	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
~~Rio~~	~~#7629237~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$12,995.00~~
Sportage	#77354358	Jade	$17,695.00
~~Sorento~~	~~#6560698~~ SOLD	~~Green~~	~~$18,995.00~~

FORD	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
~~Ranger~~	~~#7PA3111~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$16,999.00~~
Fusion	#7R114053	White	$19,990.00
Escape	#7KB29539	White	$19,990.00
~~F-150~~	~~#6NB057~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$21,999.00~~

HONDA	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
~~Fit~~	~~#7S03108~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$14,995.00~~
~~Fit Sport~~	~~#7S03110~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$16,495.00~~
Civic DX	#7L061948	White	$16,995.00
~~Ridgeline~~	~~#6H56662~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$29,990.00~~

Joeten Motors 30th ANNIVERSARY

SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 6 PM • SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON
TEL. 234-5562

Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies last. **EPA Estimated hwy mpg.

Joeten Motors POWERED BY YOU

Vianney B. Hocog and
Angelina A. Hocog
P.O. Box 1034
Rota, MP 96951
Telephone No. 532-2229

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For:	)	FCD AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0492
VINNEY AN-IK CR.S. ATALIG-HOCOG Minor Child	)	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
By:	)	
VIANNEY BORJA HOCOG, JR. and SHEILA MARIE HOCOG, Petitioners.	)	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on Augsut 22, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 223, before Associate Judge David A. Wiseman.

Dated this 20th day of August, 2008.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Clarification

Bruce Bateman, in his "Sour Grapes" column in Tuesday's paper, accused me of saying the CNMI "should give away the northernmost three islands in our terribly scarce land resources by ceding them to the U.S. federal government for all time."

I did not say this. I have never said this. I do support the establishment of a national marine monument in the CNMI's northern waters. I believe it will be good for the CNMI in a variety of ways. However, I recognize, as should we all, that the CNMI's three northernmost islands are protected in Article XIV, Section 2, Uninhabited Islands, of the CNMI Constitution as uninhabited places to be used "only for the preservation and protection of natural resources including but not limited to bird, wildlife and plant species."

The waters surrounding these northern islands—as well as all the islands of the CNMI—are already under federal control. But that hasn't given the federal government control of the islands within those waters in the south, nor will it do so in the north.

Bateman apparently does not have faith in the process historically used to establish monuments under the Antiquities Act of 1906. But hundreds have been established, and I have faith that this one will be no different, and will be accomplished by fair and even-handed negotiations among all parties—should the president designate the seas surrounding the islands of Maug, Asuncion and Uracas as a national monument.

Ruth Tighe
Tanapag, Saipan

Burglars on the loose!

Attention, everyone! We thought we should let all of you know that there are burglaries occurring in the village of Capital Hill. This is where we reside.

On Aug. 20, 2008, at 1:30pm, we left our house to run errands and when we came back just before 4pm, we found that the house had been robbed! The window had been broken into (in the middle of the day) and several items were stolen.

These items include:

■ A black/gray Compaq Presario laptop, charger (from DRTO) and a black/white mouse. Serial #: CN-F5432QLSX

■ A gray Trutech brand portable DVD player with initials J.A.E. on the outside screen along with two speakers and a line-in a titanium blue Jansport schoolbag

■ A black Sony PS2 game console (slim version) with one black controller and plugs.

■ One samurai sword

To the burglars: Shame on you for stealing! You committed a crime and when you do sell our belongings, the buyer will be at fault, too! Since you already know where we live, return our belongings the way they are! I urge all pawnshops to watch for these items and contact me at 484-6069 or boss_628@yahoo.com.

Christine and
Carlo Evangelista
Capital Hill, Saipan

Opportunity lost in Kagman

Unfortunately, the Zoning Board recently disregarded the recommendation of the Kagman Community Association, Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort, and their own zoning administrator, Steve Tilley.

We recommended that Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort construct a sidewalk that would go from Tank Beach to the Kagman schools. This was a rare opportunity because Lao Lao was willing to construct it for free, in exchange for the zoning permit to construct their golftel. The zoning law requires that a company constructing a hotel must provide access to the shoreline. I attended the zoning hearing personally and asked the board to consider our proposal. Lao Lao would have invested $30,000 to construct this proposed sidewalk. This sidewalk would have been a great investment for Kagman because not much has been invested in our infrastructure. This would have benefited the students, teachers, and pedestrians. It would have made it convenient for many people.

Instead, the Zoning Board is more interested in Lao Lao making an access route through the golf course to a tiny beach, which would not benefit the public as much as the sidewalk would. What's the use of a hearing, when the recommendations of the public is overlooked? This is truly unfortunate.

Jesse Torres
President,
Kagman Komunidat Association

THE HEAT IS ON!
SGH
Saipan Grand Hotel
A TanHoldings Company
OFFERS
FREE extra bed
FREE entrance at Club V
FREE use of Karaoke and
Billiard at Southern Cross Bar
20% discount at AOI Restaurant
and enjoy the swimming pool amenities
Plus 24 hours POWER SUPPLY
FOR ONLY $55 A DAY (TAX INCLUSIVE)
Weekly and Monthly packages available!
Promo ends Sept 30,2008
SPECIAL UPGRADES AVAILABLE for bigger families.
For Reservations please call
Trunk line : 234-6601 ext 112 / 113
Direct Line: 234-6576

Thank you

We would like to thank Mike Manglona, director of Youth Affairs Office, and Joe Villagomez, also of the Youth Affairs Office, Governor's Office, for their assistance in providing facilities for our community meetings to meet candidate John H. Davis Jr. We also thank program coordinators Frances Hill of the San Antonio Youth Learning Center and Vernon-Lee Manglona of the Koblerville Youth Learning Center, for their assistance in making space available for us. And we also thank all of those in the community who offered their ideas and support.

For those of you who missed the meetings this week, John Davis will be at the Tanapag Youth Center on Monday, Aug. 25, 2008, 5pm-6pm, and at the Gualo Rai Youth Learning Center on Tuesday, Aug. 26, 5pm-6pm.

John Davis has taken positions on issues affecting Americans abroad as well as American domestic policy and American foreign and defense policy.

On issues directly affecting the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, John Davis has promised that, if elected, he will introduce legislation (1) to have the U.S. Congress transfer the jurisdiction and control of the Exclusive Economic Zone and submerged lands surrounding the CNMI from the United States to the CNMI and (2) to have a Veterans Administration medical facility built in the CNMI. He is a strong advocate of a self-sustaining CNMI and favors establishing and locating federal offices and agencies, such as Small Business Administration and other federal economic business incubator agencies, in the CNMI.

John Davis is also in favor of the granting of permanent residence and citizenship to non-American individuals who have immediate relative status in the CNMI and who have met all of the requirements for U.S. citizenship as if living in the United States, as well as the processing of those applications in the CNMI. He is in favor of the expeditious processing in the CNMI of visas for nonresident workers, transferring from their CNMI job classification to the appropriate U.S. visa category for which they meet the requirements.

John Davis welcomes and invites any and all interested persons of the Commonwealth to meet with him and offer their comments, thoughts and concerns on the issues facing the Commonwealth that the Delegate to U.S. Congress may be able to address.

To set up a meeting time and date, call me at 287-9807 or 235-5123.

Jeanne H. Rayphand
Chairperson, Committee to Elect John H. Davis Jr. as Delegate to U.S. Congress

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

CNMI Delegate candidate John Davis will be at the following locations and dates to meet with those who would like to meet with him:
Aug. 25, 2008, 5pm-6pm, Tanapag Youth Center
Aug. 26, 5pm-6pm, Gualo Rai Youth Learning Center

Accountability

Who is going to be held accountable and responsible for our power crisis? The Governor? Lt. Governor? The veteran lawmakers still in office? We have reasons to believe that Senate President Pete Reyes and House Speaker Arnold Palacios are hesitant in entertaining an impeachment process.

We have been told by some elected officials that the legislative branch needs proof beyond a reasonable doubt, strong evidence to substantiate our demand for impeachment before they can act on any impeachment hearing and it might take years to accomplish.

If anyone had been following Gov. Benigno Fitial, Senate President Pete Reyes and House Speaker Arnold Palacios, you will realize and understand what we are now addressing. These three elected officials have had closed door meetings after meetings, including the time we were protesting in front of the Governor's doorsteps.

The last meeting behind closed doors was to discuss the former governors' and lt. governors' annuities. Out of all meeting and current catastrophic threats to our community with our power plants engines, *annuities* were a priority.

We don't know who these elected officials are trying to fool nor do they think that we are that ignorant.

Taotao Tano states that the expedited sole sourced contracts under the guise of emergency declarations was the lone sole reason we are oppressed. This administration has failed miserably in its fiduciary duties, including negligence of duties in ensuring the safety and health of the entire people of the Commonwealth. If this is not proof enough beyond a reasonable doubt for an impeachment then what else is?

The previous administration under the helm of then governor Juan N. Babauta and Lt. Gov. Diego Benavente left office with 68 megawatts plus 14.5 megawatts produced by Power Plant 4 that totaled 82.5 megawatts, excluding Power plant 2—our 15 megawatt backup power reserve that was functioning then.

On the emergency declarations for CUC, again the previous administration's declaration lasted only seven months vs. the current administration who had it for over 2 and1/2 years and we are now faced with a catastrophic eminent threat affecting public safety, public health, public services and general welfare of our entire community. This is the truth.

Today, this administration, along with the Senate President and other veteran lawmakers, continue to point fingers but Taotao Tano is not that naïve or ignorant to understand the reality of this elected officials' purpose of intentionally running our power plants down to a mere 10 megawatts due to the sole sourced deal with CISCO. Thank God for Power Plant 4, which is producing 14.5 megawatts steadily.

The catastrophic eminent threat to our society should be blamed on the current administration and some members in our legislative branch (they know who they are). Intentionally and deliberately ruining our power plants to force privatization is a crime. To include the eminent and catastrophic dangers we now face is also a crime against humanity and someone has to be held accountable and responsible.

Four sole sourced contractors were paid both locally and federally under this administration yet they have no rehabilitated or repaired power engines to show for it. Instead, they delivered a threat affecting our entire community.

We demand an impeachment and immediate removal of Gov. Benigno Fitial and Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez for they do not represent or serve the people of the Commonwealth.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
Taotao Tano

Prayer for Saipan

Saipan,
Mother-of-pearl in the sea
Little hibiscus on the world's last lagoon,
None more perfect
None more beautiful,
Today we kneel at thy feet
And curse the men who have misused you.

William R. Barrineau
Puerto Rico, Saipan

Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School

Registration On-Going
for 2008-2009 school year

live to learn, live to love, live to give

elementary
begins August 14, 2008

At the Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School students will find a learning and family focused environment, with teachers from excellent American Universities.

August 2008 - May 2009 Prices

Kindegarten $260.00/month
Grades 1-8 $270.00/month
Grades 9-10 $325.00/month

ESL Fee: For ESL Students Only $100 per month
Registration Fee All Classrooms $100 per year
Books/Materials Fee All Classrooms $300 per year

Engaging Creative Curriculum
Excellent Student/Teacher ratio

Free Remedial Tutoring
Free After School Care until 5:30 pm
Authorized to Process Foreign Student Visa

child development center
begins August 18, 2008

The SDA Child Development Center is a year long program.

Each day the center is open from 7am until 5pm and is located behind Dolphin Wholesale in San Jose.

	Tuition Rates	Material Fee Rates
K1 Monthly		
Part-time	$225	$100
Semi-Fulltime	$260	$125
Fulltime	$305	$150
K2 Monthly		
Part-time	$200	$100
Semi-Fulltime	$235	$125
Fulltime	$280	$150
K3 Monthly		
Part-time	$215	$125
Semi-Fulltime	$255	$150
Fulltime	$300	$175
K4 Monthly		
Part-time	$215	$150
Semi-Fulltime	$255	$175
Fulltime	$300	$200

Registration Fee $50.00
Insurance Fee $30.00

The Seventh-day Adventist School is two campuses with one vision.
"It is our desire to inspire the mind, body and spirit of each child through engaging, challenging and creative learning."

The elementary office is in San Antonio across from the Labor & Immigration Office.
P.O. Box 501603 Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: 670.234.7326 Fax: 670.235.7326
saipansdaschool@gmail.com Business hours: 7:15 am - 4:30 pm (mon-thur) 7:15 am - 1:00 pm (fri)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Buddhist temple groundbreaking today

The NMI Buddhist Association is having a groundbreaking ceremony for a Buddhist temple today, Aug. 22 at 4pm at its new location in Marpi. The area is next to the entrance of the Far East Broadcasting Radio Station and the "MVA bunker." The NMI Buddhist Association is inviting the community to take part in this special occasion and ceremony. Contact Su Nim (Headmaster) at 287-9674 for more information. ***(PR)***

USS *Mustin* leaves, USS *Stethem* arrives today

With this morning's departure of the USS *Mustin* comes the arrival of the USS *Stethem*, a 505-foot destroyer with approximately 340 officers and crew. The *Stethem*, like the Mustin, will be anchored outside the lagoon. The *Stethem* is scheduled to depart Tuesday morning.

NMC registration ongoing

Students wanting to register for the upcoming Fall 2008 semester at the Northern Marianas College have until today, Aug. 22, 2008, to do so. Late registration, which requires a $25 late fee, will be held on Saturday, Aug. 23, from 9am to 12pm.

Admission applications for those who have already taken both placement tests will be accepted up to the last day of registration as well.

The updated class schedule for the Fall 2008 semester can be found on the NMC website at www.nmcnet.edu. Information about registration and admissions can also be found on the website. For more information, call the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 extension 1523/28/39/40, e-mail oar@nmcnet.edu, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

Hopwood schedule

Hopwood Jr. High School announced the following significant dates:

■ Sept. 2, Tuesday
Hopwood teachers and staff report for work

■ Sept. 8, Monday
Students report to school, first day of classes

■ Aug. 20, Friday
Last day to accept late registration

■ Sept. 11, Thursday Reopen for late registration

All students will receive their class schedule from their 1st period class and homeroom teacher. Students and parents are welcome to the Hopwood campus the weekend prior to Sept. 8, to find out in advance the child's first period.

SY 2008-09 Class/Bell Schedule

Warning Bell	7:45
1st period	7:50-8:40
2nd period	8:42-9:32
Break	9:32-9:42
3rd period	9:44-10:34
4th period	10:36-11:26
Lunch	11:26-12:24
5th period	12:26-1:16
6th period	1:18-2:08
7th period	2:10-3:00

Expect the BEST at MICROL
Financing as low as 3.50%* APR
Visit us today and experience Better Selection, Excellent Performance, Superior Service and Top Value!
■ Stylish Alloy Wheels
■ Vehicle Skid Control Safety System
TOYOTA
2009 COROLLA
"An affordable Luxury family sedan."
■ AM/FM CD player with MP3/WMA playback and iPod capabilities Plus Two 12V auxiliary power outlets
■ 4-cylinder fuel efficient engine
■ Up to 35 MPG!*
Free laptop computer* with every new Corolla. Just in time for back to school!
MICROL Better Selection, Excellent Performance, Superior Service and Top Value!
*OAC. Conditions apply. Laptop not exactly as shown. Actual HWY mileage may vary.
MICROL CORPORATION
TOYOTA
Corner Beach Road and Chalan Mnsr. Guerrero in San Jose
Telephone: 234-5911 | Fax: 234-6514 | www.microlsaipan.com

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. BENIGNO T. FEJERAN, Defendant.

Civil Action No. 07-0230

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on July 11, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in the following property, Lot 031 T 03, located on the island of Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 26,244 square meters, more or less, as shown on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 031 T 00, which was recorded on October 22, 1976, as Document No. 5640, at Land Registry office in Saipan, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on October 3. 2008, at the hour of 1:30 pm, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.

b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c) To reject any and all bids.

2. Birds. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 503758 CK, Saipan, NT 9695, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.

3. Deposit: Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due Page 2 of 3 within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at die commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 12th day of August 2008.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

GUANGDONG HARDWARE

GUANGDONG MILEI? GUANGDONG BA ITO?

U.S. UTILITY LUMBERS
Regular/Treated 2*6/2*8
25% OFF

OVERSIZED AND DAMAGED MAHOGANY LUMBERS
40% OFF

2*4*18 Regular	$6.90	2*6*18 Regular	$10.80
2*4*20 Regular	$7.40		
2*4*12 Utility regular	$4.60	2*4*12 Utility treated	$6.70
2*4*14 Utility regular	$5.30	2*4*14 Utility treated	$7.70
2*4*16 Utility regular	$6.00	2*4*16 Utility treated	$8.70
2*4*18 Utility regular	$6.70	2*4*18 Utility treated	$9.70
2*4*20 Utility regular	$7.20	2*4*20 Utility treated	$10.70
2*6*12 Utility regular	$6.90	2*6*12 Utility treated	$10.20
2*6*14 Utility regular	$7.90	2*6*14 Utility treated	$12.20
2*6*16 Utility regular	$8.90	2*6*16 Utility treated	$14.20
2*6*18 Utility regular	$9.90	2*6*18 Utility treated	$15.20
2*6*20 Utility regular	$10.90	2*6*20 Utility treated	$17.20
2*6*18 Dougalas regular	$12.90	2*6*20 Dougalas Treated	$18.90

Plyform (5/8"):
Red/Black-$25.90 • Phenolic Black-$29.90

Galvalume roof tin (Gauge 26)
from Korea, better quality, long time no rusty

HOLLOW BLOCKS
(CMU)
4"-$0.50/pc
6"-$0.60/pc
8"-$0.70/pc

SPECTRUM PAINT ON SALE!

Grout, 25 Lbs.
$16.00

HENRY ADHESIVE 356 MULTI-PURPOSE
$15.00/Gal
HENRY ADHESIVE 356 MULTI-PURPOSE
$53.00/4Gals
HENRY ADHESIVE 430 VINYL TILE
$14.00/Gal
HENRY ADHESIVE 314 CERAMIC TILE
$48.00/4Gals

REBAR
$1449.00
/short ton

Special price for damaged items, from
15% to 50% off

Major construction materials cheapest on island!

Never satisfied until you are

ISLAND LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED FOR MAJOR ITEMS

P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:gddc@pticom.com
Business hours:
Mon. to Sat. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

10 bands to kicks off Sunday's 'Summer Jam'

Music lovers of all ages on island are in for a treat as the Saipan Summer Jam goes on stage on Sunday, Aug. 24 at the Club V of Saipan Grand Hotel.

Ten amateur local bands will be competing in the biggest musical event on Saipan.

The event starts promptly at 4pm. Admission tickets at $5 each inclusive of a drink are available at the *Beach Road Magazine* office located on the second floor of the Transpac Business Center on Middle Road in Gualo Rai. Tickets will also be available at Club V on the day of the event.

Exciting prizes from various sponsors await the 10 participating bands, with $150 cash and Shell gas gift certificates worth $100 going to the first place winner, according to Susan Marchitti, Beach Road Magazine account manager.

Second place winner will receive $75 worth of Shell gas gift certificates; while the third place winner will receive $50 worth of Shell gas gift certificates, Marchitti said.

The top three winners will also be invited to perform at Palms Resort Saipan's "Back-to-School Summer Bash" on Aug. 30.

Other bands will receive exciting giveaways including 14 Coca-Cola cooler bags; Boarderline T-shirts, wallet, and CD case; computer games software from PC Outlet; and car seat cover and wall clock from Taro Sue.

Light refreshments during the two-day rehearsal on Aug. 20 and Aug. 21 were provided by Subway and Foremost.

The 10 competing bands are Past & Present, J2, Rated R, D is for Dangerous, High Pitch Band, Channel B, The Burning Bush, Project X, Fritada and Frozen Nipple.

At least three more bands had wanted to join but organizers had to cut down the number of participants to 10 to ensure an orderly competition.

The bands will be scored on the basis of showmanship, which comprises 25 percent of the total points, and pertains to the manner in which the band executed its performance; originality, which also constitutes 25 percent of the total points, and refers to the uniqueness of the performance; overall performance, which encompasses 30 percent of the total points, and refers to the entire sound and look of the band; and audience impact, which accounts for 20 percent of the total score, and will be determined through text votes. Text voting started at 8am on Aug. 1, and will end at 8pm on Aug. 24. Texters will be charged 10 cents per text regardless of their plan.

Adding another layer of excitement to the biggest gig in town is the performance of the Big Beats.

"We thought of livening up the Saipan Summer Jam even more and so we invited the Big Beats, which agreed to perform in support of the participating musicians," Marchitti said.

The Big Beats, widely held to be the most popular band on island, is among the pioneering group of musicians that have dominated the local music scene.

The Saipan Summer Jam is made possible through the generous sponsorship by Coca-Cola Beverage Company (Micronesia), Inc., PTI, Northern Marianas College and Budget Car Rental. ***(PR)***

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Glory Market robbery

Crime Stoppers is asking the community for information on any of the individual(s) involved in the recent armed robbery at the Charlie Glory Market in Chalan Kanoa. The crime was reported on Saturday, Aug. 16, 2008, at 6:41pm.

Based on preliminary investigation, two unknown, masked men armed with machetes came running into the store. The cashier, who is the victim in this case, attempted to push the store's alarm button but was struck on the right arm with the blunt side of the machete by one of the robbers. The perpetrators were able to cut the line of the cash register and flee the store with an undetermined amount of cash. The victim, a 60 year-old Korean woman, sustained a bruise on her right arm. Investigation of this case is ongoing.

Crime Stoppers is also seeking the community's assistance for information about any of the armed robberies that occurred on Saipan. Your help in solving these crimes will go a long way in placing criminals behind bars.

Anyone having information about these crimes may call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards up to $1,000 for information leading to an arrest. Caller ID is not used. All calls remain anonymous. ***(Crime Stoppers)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB No.: ITB08-CSC-086 (A) (B)

SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 03, 2008 **TIME: 9:30 A.M.**

"JANITORIAL AND LAWN CARE SERVICES FOR THE OFFICE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION BUILDING NO. 1211, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

INTERESTED CONTRACTOR MAY CONTACT ANGIE SABLAN AT (670) 322-4663 DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS FROM MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY FOR A SCHEDULED SITE VISIT OF THE FACILITY.

CONTRACTOR SHALL PROVIDE LABOR, TOOLS, EQUIPMENTS, MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES NECESSARY TO PERFORM THE JOB.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ NORBERT S. SABLAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

The Marianas Visitors Authority is seeking for qualified individuals for the following positions:

	POSITION:	CLOSING DATE:
JVA#08-001	Chief Accountant	Until Filled
JVA#08-003	Marketing Specialist (Saipan)	August 29, 2008
JVA#08-004	Marketing Specialist (Tinian)	August 29, 2008
JVA#08-005	Marketing Manager	August 29, 2008

HOW TO APPLY

Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01 or by emailing personnel@mymarianas.com for employment application forms. All applicants must submit an MVA employment application plus other required documents in order to be considered for any of the positions listed above. All applications should be submitted to the MVA office no later than the closing date of the announcement.

MVA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP08-DEQ-083

SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 23, 2008 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"CONDUCT OF ASTM PHASE I AND PHASE II ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT OF BROWNFIELDS SITES ON SAIPAN, CNMI UNDER THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY STATE RESPONSE PROGRAM AND BROWNFIELDS COMMUNITY WIDE ASSESSMENT GRANTS"

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **AUGUST 15, 2008** AT THE DEQ OFFICE OR ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO **raymasga@deq.gov.mp.** THE DEQ OFFICE IS LOCATED AT THE GUALO RAI CENTER BUILDING, ON CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR 10:00 A.M., SEPTEMBER 10, 2008 IN THE 2ND FLOOR DEQ CONFERENCE ROOM 205.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE SUBMITTED BY FACSIMILE TO MR. RAY MASGA, MANAGER, SITE ASSESSMENT AND REMEDIATION BRANCH, AT (670) 664-8540 OR BY E-MAIL TO raymasga@deq.gov.mp. NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, SEPTEMBER 12, 2008.

THE CNMI LOCAL PREFERENCE LAW, CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 ***IS NOT AVAILABLE*** IN THIS PROCUREMENT BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY THE FEDERAL LAW GRANTING THE FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR, DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on September 4, 2008 at 6:00 pm, CRM Conference Room, 2nd floor of the Morgen Building, San Jose. The public is invited to attend. The agenda will include:

A. Preliminary Matters: Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes, Communications
B. Reports: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Administrator, Committees, Legal Counsel
C. Public Hearings. None
D. Contested Cases. None
E. Permits and Related Actions - Review and Decide
   1. 2008-0908 A. Vekhov, preliminary plat, lot TR 2045/08 and TR 2044/08
   2. 2008-1197 Jesus G. Villagomez final plat, lot H34NEW
   3. 2008-1360 CUC Aggrecko conditional use permit application
F. Old Business
   1. Review and approve amendments to the Official Saipan Zoning Maps.
      i. Map 13, Various Lots on Lower Navy Hill re-zone from VC to MC
      ii. Map 26, Lot 045 K 01 re-zone VR to VC, file 2008-0820
      iii. Map 27, Lot 551 C 3 re-zone RU to MC, file 2008-1075
   2. Adopt Zoning Board Rules and Regulations
   3. 2008-0302 LaoLao Golftel - review progress on permit conditions
G. New Business.
   1. Review new rezone proposals and approve advertising for public comment.
H. Public Comment
I. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with legal counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters
J. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.). /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

Wind Energy Systems, Adult Business, Zoning Permits and Fees Proposed Zoning Regulations Public Meeting/Hearing

The Zoning Board invites the public to comment on proposed Zoning Board regulations. The regulations cover five topic areas: wind energy systems; establishment of an adult business overlay zone; definitions of "major" and "minor" site plans; adjusting permit fees; and general editing. A public meeting/hearing will be held to take comment. There will also be presentations on wind energy systems.

Place:	Multipurpose Center, Susupe
Date:	Thursday, August 28, 2008
Time:	6:00 pm

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office but they must be received at the Zoning Office by 3:00 pm, August 29, 2008. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

Copies of the proposed regulation can be downloaded from www.zoning.gov.mp. Copies can be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan.

For questions or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9663/7. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC). /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

Notice of Public Hearing Aggrecko Auxiliary CUC Power Station

The public is invited to provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on Conditional Use Permit Application, No. 2008-1360, by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. The application is for installation of auxiliary electrical generators on Lot 205 E 02, 15-2, Lower Base, Saipan.

Date:	August 28, 2008
Time:	6:00 pm
Place:	Multipurpose Building, Susupe

The conditional use application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan. After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to issue or deny the permit.

Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office but they must be received at the Zoning Office by 6:00 pm, August 29, 2008. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC). /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 08-025

The Public School System (PSS) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the **Purchase and Delivery of Mobility Equipped Vans.** Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP #08-025" containing one (1) original and four (4) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than September 16, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP #08-025, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and four (4)-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, technical questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

General inquiries may be directed to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office at telephone numbers 237-3062 / 3035.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Ramon DLG. Diaz, Jr.
Acting, Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting P & S Officer

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
State Board of Education
Public School System
P.O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 08-033

The Public School System (PSS) and the State Board of Education are soliciting for competitive sealed biddings for a **One (1) Year Janitorial Services for the PSS Central Offices**. Interested firms are to provide labor, materials and supplies for janitorial services. Detailed information on the Scope of Work are available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All Bid Proposals must be in a sealed envelope face marked "**IFB # 08-033**" and submitted one (1) original with three (3) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **September 19, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsive and Responsible Determination documents must be put in a different envelope marked "**IFB# 08-033, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsive & Responsible Determination**" (I -original with three 3-copies). Any bids after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Any questions must be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, PSS Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer, at fax # (670). 664-3791 or email to *babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp*. Questions must be submitted no later than ten (10) working days prior to the deadline to submit the proposals.

The bidders are requested to submit with their proposal a copy of their valid CNMI Business License to conduct Janitorial Services (Labor, Supply, Maintenance & Services) in the CNMI.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

Inquiries to this proposal announcement may be directed to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office at telephone number 237-3062 or 3035 or faxed to 664-3791.

/S/ Ramon DLG. Diaz, Jr.
Acting, Commisioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
PSS Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP08-GOV- 094

Program Management:
CNMI Water Task Force

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Request for Proposals for Program Management for the Water Task Force on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after **August 22, 2008.**

Questions regarding this Request for Proposal must be submitted in writing to **CNMI Water Task Force**, by facsimile to **(670) 664-2279**, no later than **Friday, September 05, 2008.**

Four (4) copies plus one original of the sealed Proposals must be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than **2:00 p.m., (CNMI local time), on September 19, 2008**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All Proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Lieutenant Governor

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH MEAL PROGRAM
ANNOUNCEMENT OF BENEFITS
SY 2008-2009

The School Breakfast and Lunch Meal Program provide healthy, nutritious meals with all the food components to make a complete meal. A nominal meal of $.50 per breakfast and $.75 pre lunch will be charged at schools participating in the School Meal Program for meals when school reconvenes. This a reduced price made available through federal grants.

Children from families that are below or meet federal guidelines are eligible for one free breakfast meal one free lunch meal everyday as the school is in session. An example of income eligibility using the federal free meal income table is printed below. A household with two children and two adults are considered a household of four persons and thus will qualify if combined monthly income is $2,297.00 or less.

Applications to receive free meals are available at the schools and the PSS Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) office located on Saipan: 3rd floor, Retirement Building, Capitol Hill; on Tinian: Tinian Elementary School, and Rota: Rota Jr. High School. Parents should fill out an application, provide supporting documents and return it to PSS FNS office or at the school office where their child/children attends if the parents think they may qualify and wishes for their child/children to receive free meals. Application cannot be approved unless a complete application and all supporting documents are submitted. Applications must be submitted every school year regardless if your child/children was/were receiving free meals in the previous years. **Children who received free meals last year have 30 days from the first day of school to submit applications and are eligible for free meals during this 30 day grace period.**

Families whose children are currently receiving assistance from the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) will qualify for the School Meals Program but still need to complete an application yearly. However, please be informed that the PSS – FNS conducts a direct certification with the NAP to ensure your children are in the program. If not all children are receiving food stamp, you must provide income sources (2 recent check stubs, SSI, retirement pension, etc). Completed applications will be processed within ten working days upon receipt. The PSS FNS office will notify you of your application approval or denial. The food services management company vendors will be provided a confidential list of students qualified for free meals.

Applications may be verified of reviewed at any time during the school year. Households receiving free meal benefits must notify PSS FNS office during the school year of any decrease in household size and/or any increase in income over $50 per month or termination of NAP benefits. **Households may apply for free meal benefits any time during the school year as circumstances change such as in cases of unemployment.**

In certain cases, foster children are eligible for free meals regardless of household income. If you have such children living with you and you wish to apply for such meals for them, please contact the PSS FNS office.

All applicants who are denied benefits have the right to request a conference to discuss the situation, present information and obtain an explanation of the submitted application or a decision rendered. Applicants may also appeal this decisions by contacting the PSS FNS office.

The PSS FNS office can be reached on Saipan: 237-3033/3060/3055/3088 or fax 664-3717, Tinian: 237-4106/4105 or fax 433-0455, Rota: 237-4046/4047 or fax 532-4020. Please feel free to call us if you would like to get more information on the free meal program.

"In the operation of child feeding program, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age or disability

/s/ Craig Garrison
Acting Commissioner of Education

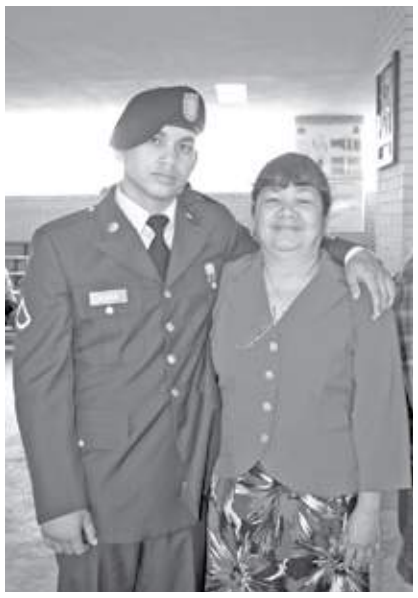
/s/ Dorinda M. Salas
Acting FNS Administrator

Island Snapshots

ARMY OF FIVE

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PFC Gregory Bamba, PFC Daniel Josh Bamba and SFC John Bamba pose for a souvenir picture after Daniel Josh Bamba's graduation from Basic Combat Training in Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Bamba enlisted as a 13B (Field Artillery Cannon Crew Member) upon graduating from high school in Junction City, Kansas, in May 2008, where he resides with his mother, Margarita and sister, Mariette Bamba. Daniel Josh Bamba is the fifth son of Margarita Bamba and the late David B. Bamba to join the military.



PFC Daniel Josh Bamba poses with his proud mother, Margarita, after his graduation. His older brothers, SGT David F. Bamba, is currently deployed to Afghanistan with the Guam National Guard; SFC John A. Bamba is a Drill Sergeant at Fort Sill, OK with Fox Battery 1/19th FA; PFC Gregory M. Bamba just graduated from AIT at Fort Lee, Virginia and will be stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Chris R. Bamba was also an enlisted soldier in the Army from 1998-2000. Their father the late David B. Bamba of Mongmong, Guam, retired from the Army as an SFC in 1995. He served in the Gulf War.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HERO'S WELCOME

EDUARDO C. SIGUENZA

The body of Petty Officer 2nd Class Anthony Carbullido arrived Monday afternoon at the A.B. Won Pat International Airport in Guam to a hero's welcome. Calbullido, a Navy hospital corpsman, was killed in Afghanistan, bringing the island's casualties to five this year. Carbullido's funeral is scheduled for Aug. 26 at the Mount Carmel Church in Agat.

The mother of Petty Officer 2nd Class Anthony Carbullido kisses the casket containing his body after it arrived Monday afternoon at the A.B. Won Pat International Airport in Guam.

EDUARDO C. SIGUENZA

AWAODORI TEAM

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Saipan Awaodori team left early yesterday morning, Aug. 21, 2008, with their chaperone, Benigno Sablan, Yoshiko T. Song and PDM Promoters, Inc. director Hideaki Sawada for the two-day Awaodori Festival in Koenji, Tokyo, which will take place Aug. 22 and 23.

GO GREEN

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hyatt Regency Saipan's launched its environmental awareness campaign "Go Green" last Saturday with a kickoff activity at the American Memorial Park, where the hotel's employees and their families were seen picking up trash and repainting picnic sites.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hyatt Regency Saipan employees repain a pavilion at the American Memorial Park as part of the company's environmental awareness campaign "Go Green."

Hyatt Regency Saipan General Manager Nick Nishikawa works with the team to repaint the American Memorial Park pavilion. Marketing communications assistant Le Shen said the activity was not just an opportunity for managers and rank-and-file employees and their families to mingle but also a part of their company's commitment to take care of the planet.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The slight drizzle fails to dampen the spirits of the Hyatt Regency Team as they finish up the repainting of the American Memorial Park pavilion.

Pacific

New Caledonian soldier killed in Afghanistan

SUVA, Fiji (Oceania Flash/PIR)—New Caledonia was on Wednesday mourning its first casualty in Afghanistan, one of ten French soldiers killed earlier this week in an ambush in Afghanistan.

Twenty-two-year-old Private Melam Baouma, originally from Ouvéa Island (in the Loyalty group, northeast of the main island), had enrolled into a French regiment based in Chad.

The French ethnic Kanak was "brutally killed in Afghanistan on Tuesday August 19", the French High commission in New Caledonia announced on Wednesday, while at the same time conveying its condolences to the family and village of the late soldier.

Other expressions of sympathy came from across the political spectrum, including pro-independence and pro-French party leaders.

The attack on the French contingent occurred some fifty kilometres East of the Afghanistan capital Kabul during a joint reconnaissance mission with the Afghan army.

All victims were part of the latest rotation of 450 Frenchmen who took over the previous group in May this year.

While nine French soldiers were killed immediately in the ambush, Private Melam Baouma was the tenth casualty.

His body was to be repatriated to New Caledonia in the next few days.

The French army based in New Caledonia, through its Commander, General Martial de Braquilanges, has indicated they were intending to render forma military honours to the late soldier, but would first like to consult with the family and clan of the dead.

On Wednesday, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, Foreign Affairs minister Bernard Kouchner and Defence minister Hervé Morin have flown the Afghan capital, Kabul, when they have met French soldiers posted there.

Sarkozy, who also held talks with Afghan President Hamid Karzai, in the meantime stressed that France would not be deterred in its fight against terrorism and for democracy and freedom.

SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM AP

South Pacific leaders, including New Zealand's Helen Clark, front left, gather for a photo during the annual forum in Niue Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2008. South Pacific leaders denounced Fiji's military ruler Wednesday for snubbing their annual summit and said measures would be discussed to pressure the coup leader to return the island nation to democracy.

Regional U. staff faces 5 pct. pay cut

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive/PIR)—The University of the South Pacific staff association has opposed a five percent across-the-board pay cut being proposed by management.

USP staff association president Sunil Kumar told Fijilive they were not happy with the proposal put forward by the new vice-chancellor Professor Rajesh Chandra.

"It is unfair that the staff are being asked to bear the mismanagement of USP funds. The situation at USP now is because of the mismanagement of funds of the previous vice-chancellor and his management team. At that time, there was a lot of extravagant spending by them and we had voiced our opinions on the matter," Kumar said.

He said at the end of the day, the very people who have been voicing their concerns will 'bear the brunt of it all.'

Also, according to Kumar, such a proposal will not bring about efficiency within the University.

New $173M fund announced for Pacific

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Pacific countries are to have new access to millions of dollars to improve infrastructure like transport, sanitation and waste management systems.

Australia, New Zealand, the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank have announced the new scheme which was discussed at the Pacific Forum leaders' meeting in Niue this week.

According to an Australian government statement the new Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility will make the funds available by coordinating donor assistance.

It will provide funding of up to $173 million US dollars during the next four years with transport infrastructure expected to be an early priority for assistance.

The New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark says New Zealand is to provide around 700,000 US dollars for the development phase of the facility with a further contribution when it is finalized.

"It's recognizing that not only is new infrastructure needed to support economic growth and development but also the capacity to improve and maintain existing infrastructure is also an issue."

Vanuatu youths suggest legalizing marijuana

PORT VILA, Vanuau (Daily Post/PIR)—The talk in dimly lit spots around Luganville is that more young people want to ask their candidates if they succeed in the upcoming general election then they could submit a paper in parliament on the legislation of marijuana.

But they are afraid their elders might turn them in, suspecting them of smoking the illicit weed that could land them behind bars, according to the laws of Vanuatu.

However, if some responsible leaders would feel comfortable in lending them their ears, some of them have good reasons why the marijuana issue should not be left in the shelves to gather dust like the first Private Members Bill that was deposited in parliament.

Daily Post understands that one of the first private members bill ever introduced into the Legislature was to legalize Marijuana in Vanuatu.

It was never passed.

The law in Vanuatu still puts Marijuana in the same category as cocaine and opium.

Some of the youths say there should be more debate on Marijuana because it grows locally and could be an alternate source of income for school dropouts.

According to them, a hectare of land would generate more revenue compared to any other cash crops grown locally.

Some of them even told the Daily Post that they support the school fees for their sisters and brothers with the illicit stuff they sell in little medicine bags.

At least that provides some grounds for national debate on the issue.

The growing, possession and consumption of Marijuana in Vanuatu are criminal offences.

Offenders can be fined up to Vt200,000 and face imprisonment.

Fiji police raid major marijuana farms

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive/PIR)—Fiji police have raided three farms deep in the Viti Levu highlands and uprooted about 7,000 marijuana plants believed to be amongst the biggest haul in the island country's history.

An initial valuation of the crops, averaging heights of three feet, stands at FJ$2 million [US$1 million], said police spokesman Atunaisa Sokomuri. However, its street value is expected to more than double when it reaches maturity.

"We understand the plants were due for harvest at the end of the year and ready for sale on the streets over the Christmas and New Year period," he said.

The raid took place yesterday and involved six police officers, assisted by six villagers from Keyasi in the Navosa highlands and 10 horses.

"The group left Keyasi at 4 a.m. and arrived at the farms at mid-day. They uprooted the 6,973 marijuana plants and returned to the main road at 5:30 p.m.," Sokomuri said.

Police were tipped off about the marijuana farms by villagers who stumbled upon them whilst pig hunting.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Mining giants merge operations in Papua New Guinea

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post-Courier/PIR)—Two of the world's biggest mining companies, Harmony Gold Mining Company and Newcrest Mining Limited, have formalized their joint venture partnership in Papua New Guinea. The partnership will now see Newcrest, one of the top 20 listed companies in Australia, take out a 30.01 percent interest in Harmony's mining interest in Hidden Valley and the highly prospective Wafi-Golpu copper-gold deposit as well as extensive exploration holdings in Morobe Province. Newcrest also has the right to earn up to a 50 percent interest by mid next year, the time production at Hidden Valley is expected to start.

Fiji reports two cases of dengue fever

SUVA, Fiji (FijiSUN/PIR)—There have been two reported cases of probable dengue fever which has been tested positive. Northern Health Service acting chief medical officer Dr. Pablo Romakin yesterday said the individuals including a 55-year old Fijian woman from Taveuni and a 22-year old woman from Savusavu, both tested positive from dengue serology. Pablo said the age groups which are usually affected by dengue fever are children less than 10 years followed by those in the 11 to 20 years age group. Pablo said in severe cases, patients who are affected with dengue may present fever associated with bleeding manifestations such as bleeding from the nose, mouth and gums. He said dengue was transmitted by Aedes mosquito which is black and white stripped.

Australia signs funding pact with PNG, Samoa

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International/PIR)—Australia has signed aid agreements with Papua New Guinea and Samoa that are designed to herald a new approach towards funding given to Pacific countries. The so-called Partnerships for Development will reward countries only after they meet detailed commitments that are designed to improve their nations. Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd today signed the first agreements at the Pacific Islands Forum leaders' meeting in Niue this week. He said most Pacific nations were not on track to meet key United Nations development goals, and the new funding arrangements were needed to help achieve them.

Tongan leader urges Fiji cooperation

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RnZI/PIR)—The outgoing chair of the Pacific Islands Forum has strongly rebuffed suggestions from Fiji's interim leader, Commodore Frank Bainimarama, that he was forced into making commitments to hold elections by March next year during last year's Forum in Tonga. Tonga's Prime Minister, Dr Feleti Sevele, speaking during the opening the Pacific Islands Forum summit in Niue, says he and the other Forum leaders are very disappointed that Fiji is not at this year's meeting. Dr Sevele says the Commodore willingly signed the Seven Point Plan for Fiji that had been drawn up and there was no coercion as the interim Prime Minister has claimed. And he says the Forum remains ready to help Fiji.

Business

Companies bid millions to tap Western Gulf

WASHINGTON (AP)—Energy companies bid hundreds of millions of dollars Wednesday to explore for oil and natural gas beneath 1.8 million acres in the western Gulf of Mexico, while looking forward to the possibility of future drilling in federal waters now off-limits.

The results of the first lease sale since offshore drilling emerged as a key campaign issue after gasoline prices topped $4 a gallon only muddied the waters as to how much politics can really influence oil production, and by extension, energy prices.

While firms bid $487.3 million to win the rights to drill 319 tracts of the Gulf, most in deep water, 90 percent of the area put up for sale Wednesday did not receive a single bite. Most of the leases purchased came with 10-year terms, unlikely to influence prices now.

The highest bid of the 47 received Wednesday—$61 million—came from StatoilHydro USA, a subsidiary of the Norwegian oil giant. Exxon Mobil Corp., which has been relatively inactive in the Gulf in recent years, posted the most winning bids. The company plans to spend $127.3 million to explore 130 tracts.

Chevron USA Inc. was the second biggest spender Wednesday—paying $127.2 for the rights to drill in 20 tracts—a day after Republican presidential candidate John McCain visited one of its offshore platforms.

"This is where we have found success and we are the clear leader," said Chevron spokesman Mickey Driver. "We came here to win and we are leaving winners."

The Bush administration used the occasion to push for more domestic energy production, and to point out that attempts to force companies to drill on federal lands already leased don't work.

Oil prices rise above $116 in Asia

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices rose Thursday in Asia above $116 a barrel as investors mulled a fall in U.S. gasoline inventories and a possible output tightening by OPEC at its next meeting in September.

Light, sweet crude for October delivery was up 83 cents at $116.39 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Singapore. The contract rose $1.01 overnight to settle at $115.56 a barrel.

The September contract expired Wednesday after rising 45 cents to $114.98 a barrel.

The price gains came despite a huge rise in U.S. crude inventories. But not all U.S. fuel supplies were abundant.

Gasoline inventories shrank by a larger-than-expected 6.2 million barrels to below-average levels in the week ended Aug. 15, the U.S. Energy Department's Energy Information Administration said Wednesday. Meanwhile, distillate inventories - which include heating oil and diesel fuel - rose by less than expected, the EIA said.

That was enough to offset a hefty 9.4 million barrel rise in U.S. crude stocks last week when the average analyst forecast had been for a 1.7 million barrel increase, according to energy information provider Platts.

$8.66 BILLION MERGER AP

An airliner flies past a palm oil plantation in Sepang, outskirt of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in a Nov. 28, 2006 file photo. Three Malaysian government-linked palm oil companies will merge to create the world's biggest palm oil business worth around 31.4 billion ringgit (US$8.66 billion), officials said. The merger, which the government hopes will cut costs and streamline the industry, would also potentially create the world's largest biofuels producer.

First payments in Vioxx deal to begin Aug. 28

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—Partial payments for people claiming withdrawn painkiller Vioxx caused heart attacks will go out starting Aug. 28 under the $4.85 billion settlement between drugmaker Merck & Co. and plaintiffs' lawyers, the claims administrator said Wednesday.

Those payments will amount to about 40 percent of each plaintiff's estimated total payout, but it's unclear how many people will be getting checks in the first batch going out. The settlement, meant to end the bulk of personal injury lawsuits against Whitehouse Station, N.J.-based Merck, was reached last November. Three years earlier, Merck pulled Vioxx from the market on Sept. 30, 2004, after its own research showed the once-blockbuster arthritis pill doubled the risk of heart attack and stroke.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Wall Street finishes erratic day higher

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street scored a moderate gain after a volatile session Wednesday that saw the major indexes ratchet up and down on the seesawing price of oil and mixed feelings about the financial sector. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 68.88, or 0.61 percent, to 11,417.43 after being down by nearly 60 points and up more than 100. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 7.85, or 0.62 percent, to 1,274.54, while the Nasdaq composite index rose 4.72, or 0.20 percent, to 2,389.08.

Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac shares plummet

NEW YORK (AP)—Investors are betting that time is running out for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Shares of the mortgage finance companies lost more than a fifth of their value on Wednesday as fears mounted that the companies will soon need government support and any bailout would hang stockholders out to dry. Since Monday, stock in the two companies—which together hold or guarantee half the U.S. mortgage debt—have plunged nearly 40 percent and are now trading at lows not seen in nearly two decades. Fannie Mae's chief executive sought to reassure investors that no bailout is imminent.

Source: Auction-rate probe focuses on 3 banks

NEW YORK (AP)—New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo will intensify his probe into auction-rate securities by focusing on Bank of America Corp., Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and Deutsche Bank AG, a person close to the investigation said Wednesday. The banks are the three biggest players in the auction-rate securities market that have not already reached a settlement with Cuomo, who is seeking deals on behalf of regulators and state authorities. Five major Wall Street firms including Citigroup Inc. and Switzerland's UBS AG have agreed to $42 billion in settlements. For the next phase, Cuomo has directed staff to spend more time gathering facts and talking to the three banks about the sale of the risky securities.

FDIC sets mortgage plan for IndyMac borrowers

WASHINGTON (AP)—Thousands of troubled home borrowers with loans from IndyMac Federal Bank will be able to switch to fixed-rate mortgages under a new plan from federal regulators, who seized the bank last month after it became the largest regulated thrift to fail. Most IndyMac borrowers who are seriously delinquent or in default on their mortgages and can document their situation will be able to switch into loans capped at an interest rate around 6.5 percent, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. said Wednesday. The average U.S. rate on 30-year, fixed-rate mortgages was at 6.52 percent last week, unchanged from the previous two weeks. More than 60,000 of the bank's home borrowers are 60 or more days behind on their payments, according to the FDIC.

Lehman under mounting pressure to take action

NEW YORK (AP)—The pressure is increasing on Lehman Brothers Holdin Inc. to come up with a plan to restore itself to financial health—or possibly face the worst-case scenario of selling itself off in pieces and at bargain prices. The nation's fourth-biggest investment house is considered the most vulnerable amid the financial sector's continuing losses from the credit crisis. This week, Lehman has been the subject of analyst downgrades and projections that it will lose $4 billion in the third quarter.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA 4,952.700 Down 44.800 (-0.90%)

HONG KONG 20,558.73 Down 372.53 (-1.78%)

JAKARTA 2,095.7871 Up 26.089 (+1.26%)

TOKYO 12,792.16 Down 59.53 (-0.46%)

K. LUMPUR 1,073.21 Up 3.79 (+0.35%)

MANILA 2,656.92 Down 24.74 (-0.92%)

SINGAPORE 2,733.37 Down 18.38 (-0.67%)

SEOUL 1,516.4 Down 24.31 (-1.58%)

BANGKOK 687.20 Down 2.85 (-0.41%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 11,417.43 +68.88

NASDAQ 2,389.08 +4.72

S&P 1,274.54 0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.1465
British Pound	0.5363
Canadian Dollar	1.0586
Chinese Renmbi	6.8481
Euro	0.6768
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8091
Indian Rupee	43.662
Indonesian Rupiah	9150
Japanese Yen	109.606
Malaysian Ringgit	3.3415
New Zealand Dollar	1.4013
Philippine Peso	45.646
Singapore Dollar	1.4139
South Korean Won	1051.75
Swiss Franc	1.0969
Taiwan Dollar	31.429
Thailand Baht	34.09

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Weak economy spurs growth for community colleges

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Two-year community colleges are seeing record enrollment as families squeezed by tough economic times steer high school graduates away from more expensive four-year universities.

While the shift solves one funding problem, it potentially raises another. Community college officials in some states, including Texas and Virginia, are concerned the precarious nature of their own finances—brought about by rising costs and state government budget shortfalls—could limit their ability to handle the anticipated influx of new students.

Preliminary reports from community colleges across the nation, which had overall enrollment of 11.5 million last year, show summer enrollments increased, a trend predicted to extend into the fall, according to Norma Kent, a spokeswoman for the American Association of Community Colleges.

Kent said the trend is in line with other economic downturns. Community colleges see increased demand for their workforce-training programs from people who have been laid off or are in search of additional skills.

Nineteen-year-old Whitney Daniels of Mathews, Va., had hoped to attend a four-year state school this fall, but the recent stock market downturn diminshed her family's college fund, making Rappahannock Community College a better alternative, at least for the short term.

The Daniels family had $20,000 in a college fund for Whitney, but the account's value has fallen enough that a four-year school would be out of the question without student loans—an option that was unappealing to her mother, Debbie.

"We're approaching retirement in the next six to seven years," Debbie Daniels said. "I don't want to get heavily in debt."

It costs $2,585 in tuition and fees annually for 30 credit hours at RCC, compared with an average of $14,841 for tuition and fees plus room and board for an in-state student at a public four-year school in Virginia.

Nationwide, the average annual cost of attending community college is $2,361, compared with $6,185 in tuition and fees for an in-state public school. Average annual room and board at a public four-year school is $7,404, according to the most recent figures from the College Board, which tracks average tuition costs.

It's figures like these that are driving more students toward community colleges.

■ In Virginia, community college officials anticipate more than 160,000 in-state students will enroll in the fall, up from last fall's enrollment of slightly more than 157,000 students. Two out of every three new undergraduates will enroll in community colleges, said Jeffrey Kraus, a spokesman for the Virginia Community College System.

■ In Cabarrus County, N.C., where Philip Morris USA Inc. is preparing to shut down a tobacco plant in three years, nearby Rowan-Cabarrus Community College is working with the company to let employees take classes in computers, Spanish and other fields to develop skills to find new jobs, according to Jeanie Moore, the school's vice president of continuing education.

■ In Texas, the state's 50 two-year schools are seeing more students mainly because of population growth, said Steven Johnson, a spokesman for the Texas Association of Community Colleges. The state's economy is somewhat more insulated from the current downturn because of the booming oil industry, he said.

The bulk of federal higher-education funding goes to four-year schools, yet two-year schools enroll almost half the nation's undergraduates, according to the American Association of Community Colleges. Salaries and infrastructure costs are higher at four-year schools, but community college officials say they've long been expected to do more with less.

At least 30 states have budget shortages, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, and the rising costs of energy and other operating expenses will likely make education funding tougher.

Community colleges on average get 60 percent of their funding from state and local sources. As a result, if states are having trouble, community college funding could dwindle, Kent said.

"It's a perfect storm in a negative sense," she said.

Virginia's General Assembly allocated $396.5 million for the state's community college system in the 2009 fiscal year, up just 2 percent from $387.2 million in the current fiscal year. It allocated $24.4 million for financial aid for community college students. But Gov. Timothy M. Kaine this week warned legislators that worsening state finances require deep budget cuts by early October—including to areas traditionally off-limits.

In Texas, state funding hasn't kept up with enrollment growth, Johnson said. Community colleges in Texas receive less than 30 percent of their funding from the state, down from 60 percent in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Central Oregon Community College in Bend is seeing a 31 percent enrollment increase, but officials expect that to moderate, saying they are running out of classroom space and faculty to meet capacity.

Because two-year schools are intended to be open-access institutions, it's anathema to turn students away. But "if there's not enough faculty, not enough courses, we have a de facto enrollment cap," Kent said.

AP

Whitney Daniels and her mom Debbie, of Matthews, Va., look over an online catalog at the Rappahannock Community College in Glenns, Va., Tuesday, July 29, 2008.

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Here's how to save on school clothes

By DAVID UFFINGTON
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Buying new school clothes can be a budget-buster, but your expenses don't have to approach the level of the national debt if you follow a few guidelines.

■ Inventory the clothes from last year and have your children try them on. If something still fits, count it as clothing you don't have to buy, at least for now. Figure out what outfits can be made from the existing clothes, and plan your purchases around those. Make a list of the fill-in items you'll need.

■ Don't buy everything before school starts. An outfit or two, combined with what still fits from last year, will get a child through the first week. During that time, he'll see what everyone else is wearing -- and it likely won't all be new, trendy clothes.

■ Stick to basics that won't go out of style, and avoid expensive fashion trends.

■ Check garage sales, consignment shops, Goodwill and Salvation Army for clothes in good condition. Winter coats and jeans especially can be purchased for a few dollars—designer brands included. Ask about half-price days. If you see something you want, buy it then. Good bargains don't last at thrift shops. Look to outlet stores for name-brand clothes at reduced prices.

■ Wait until the middle of September to spend the bulk of your clothing money. Keep an eye on the sales racks where you normally shop for clothes. As the merchandise makes its way through the restocking cycle, what you saw two weeks ago at full price could end up being marked down. Look for off-season merchandise as well, and buy ahead if it's a bargain.

■ Organize a clothing swap with your church or social group, or even in your neighborhood.

■ Give an older child a little leeway, such as having a say up to a certain dollar amount or for one outfit. Above that amount, you pick the clothing. Or agree that you'll pay the amount of a basic item and he or she will pay the balance.

Finally, remember that you're the parent with the budget to follow. If your child objects to what you want to buy or threatens a meltdown over a certain item, don't buy anything. Go home and do the shopping by yourself later.

David Uffington regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Write to him in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columnreply@gmail.com.

After interviews, ask for feedback

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Q: I am a senior-level information technology professional. I was laid off due to budget cuts in February, while I was being treated for breast cancer. I took this as a sign to take a pause to refresh, but I have been looking steadily since then. I have gotten face-to-face interviews but no job offers. I have even written thank you notes. What am I doing wrong? I have become quite discouraged.

A: The fact that you're regularly getting to that stage is a sign that your resume, cover letter and overall skill set are attractive.

Perhaps you are revealing too much about your illness to these potential employers in your interviews. It shouldn't matter, but hiring managers might be skittish about taking on a new employee who could add significantly to health-care costs.

It could also be that employers are interviewing more people for individual positions these days, knowing they can afford to be picky. That would lower your odds of getting an offer for any particular job.

Have you asked for feedback from any of the people who have interviewed you? Also, consider booking a session with a career coach to test your interviewing skills. Or try working with a recruiter, who may not be able to spend much time helping you but will be honest.

■■■

Q: I work for a very small company (seven employees, including the owner and myself). The owner is a one-man show. He pays all the bills and signs the paychecks. We don't have direct deposit. What would happen if the owner died in a car accident or something? What would happen to the company? Would we, the employees, be responsible for paying the office rent, telephone bill, etc.? None of us is authorized to talk to his bank or our health-insurance company. What do people do in a case like that? I guess you can see why I couldn't ask the owner what would happen if he died, but really, do you know what would happen to us? And if the answer is that we would be out of luck, why would anyone want to work for a small company controlled by one person?

A: Well, I hope he has an estate plan. Is he married?

Q: We don't know if the owner is married. We can't really ask him, can we? What if he died? How long would we keep coming in to work without knowing what was going on? What would happen? Would we have to pay the bills?

A: You personally? No. The business, somehow, yes.

Smart small-business owners have a plan in place should they die or become incapacitated. I don't understand your terror of asking about your boss' plan. It's a legitimate question and one that you should have felt free to ask before you accepted the job. If your boss' answer doesn't reassure you, you could look for work elsewhere.

I have to say, given how small your company is, that I am a bit shocked that you don't even know if your employer is married—and thus has a spouse who might possibly take over signing paychecks.

Questions from Career Tracks, an online discussion about workplace issues.

Nation

Biden is Democratic favorite for Obama's No. 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Sen. Joe Biden has emerged as the clear favorite among Democrats to be Barack Obama's running mate for his understanding of foreign policy in grave global times and his fighting spirit against the rival Republican ticket.

Obama is keeping his decision quiet, but his staff in Chicago and party activists who await a decision are buzzing about Biden in large part because he can address two of Obama's biggest weaknesses—his lack of experience, especially on world affairs, and his reluctance to go on the attack. The speculation among Democrats is less of an indicator of whether Biden will ultimately be Obama's pick, and more of a recognition of the challenges their candidate faces at this pivotal moment in the race.

Obama plans to appear with his newly selected running mate Saturday, with the pick announced via text message to supporters. Obama also is widely thought to be considering Govs. Kathleen Sebelius of Kansas and Tim Kaine of Virginia, and Sen. Evan Bayh of Indiana.

AP

Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., drives up to his home past the news media Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2008 in Greenville, Del.

Biden was first elected to represent Delaware in 1972, when Obama was 11 years old and half the people living in the United States today weren't born yet. He is a curious frontrunner for running mate for a candidate who won the primary by arguing he would be a fresh outsider who could bring change to Washington.

Biden is a charismatic and hard-charging campaigner with a compelling personal story—his wife and daughter were killed in a car accident a few weeks after he was first elected, but two sons survived serious injuries in the same crash. Biden commuted home to Wilmington from each day in the Senate to care for them, a practice he still continues to this day. The oldest son, Beau, is now Delaware's attorney general and a National Guard member whose unit is being deployed to Iraq in October.

Biden got another scare 10 years ago, when two brain aneurysms kept him out of the Senate for several months.

Biden returned Monday from a trip to Georgia at the invitation of the embattled country's president, a well-timed reminder of the value he could bring to Obama's ticket.

Fighting between Georgia and Russia has only increased the sense that Americans will turn to a leader who will be a strong international leader. McCain brings a military background and leadership on the Senate Armed Services Committee. Obama only has served three years in Washington, but Biden is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that he has served on for 33 years.

McCain chides a newly feisty Obama as 'testy'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republican presidential candidate John McCain chided his Democratic rival on Wednesday for getting "a little testy" as Barack Obama sharpened his tone amid a tightening White House race. "I honor his service. I don't honor his policies. I don't honor his politics," Obama said, taking on his GOP opponent with renewed vigor while some Democrats fret that their candidate has not been aggressive enough.

As the campaign turns increasingly negative, both candidates unveiled fresh attack advertisements ahead of their back-to-back national conventions.

Again trying to tie McCain to the unpopular President Bush, Obama's TV commercial asks: "Can we really afford more of the same?" It slams McCain's tax plan as a giveaway for big corporations and oil companies. McCain's radio ad claims: "Celebrities like to spend their millions. Barack Obama is no different. Only it's your money he wants to spend."

Democrats privately and publicly are questioning whether Obama has a second act beyond his message of change and wondering whether he can throw an effective punch against a Republican Party willing to play hardball.

Republicans, in turn, are emboldened by improving poll numbers: Even ardent critics of McCain's campaign see a way he could win although Bush's unpopularity remains a drag and war and economic distress have created a dreadful political environment for the GOP.

New national polls show McCain starting to close a summer-long Obama edge.

US Rep. Tubbs Jones of Ohio dies after hemorrhage

EAST CLEVELAND, Ohio (AP)—Democratic U.S. Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones, the first black woman to represent Ohio in Congress and a strong critic of the Iraq war, died Wednesday after a brain hemorrhage, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Jones

Tubbs Jones, 58, died Wednesday evening of a brain hemorrhage caused by an aneurysm that burst and left her with limited brain function, said Eileen Sheil, a spokeswoman for the Cleveland Clinic, which owns the Huron Hospital in East Cleveland where Tubbs Jones died.

"Throughout the course of the day and into this evening, Congresswoman Tubbs Jones' medical condition declined," Sheil said in a statement from the clinic and Tubbs Jones' family.

The liberal Democrat, first elected in 1998, suffered the hemorrhage while driving her car in Cleveland Heights Tuesday night, said Dr. Gus Kious, president of Huron Hospital.

A brain aneurysm is a bulge in an artery in the brain. It can leak or rupture, causing bleeding in the brain.

Several news organizations, including The Associated Press, had reported earlier in the day that Tubbs Jones had died. That report, citing a Democratic official, was corrected a few minutes later when a hospital official held a news conference to say she was in critical condition.

Documents: US strike aided bin Laden-Taliban alliance

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. cruise missile strike on an al-Qaida training camp in Afghanistan in 1998 was meant to kill Osama bin Laden. But he apparently left shortly before the missiles struck, and newly declassified U.S. documents suggest the attack cemented an alliance with his Taliban protectors.

The State Department documents released Wednesday provide details of the evolving relationship between Taliban leader Mullah Omar and al-Qaida chief bin Laden over four month in 1998. The period begins Aug. 21, 1998, one day after the missile attack—retaliation for the bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania on Aug. 7 of that year.

Omar said publicly on Aug. 21 he would continue to protect bin Laden. But the next day, he told a State Department employee in private that he would be open to negotiating bin Laden's presence in Afghanistan, giving U.S. officials faint but ultimately false hope the Taliban might hand him over to Saudi Arabia. Bin Laden had been in Afghanistan since he was expelled from Sudan in May 1996.

AP

A group of Amish women and children pass the opening of an underpass as they make their way home along a winding road near English, Ky., Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2008.

Amish population nearly doubles in 16 years

LANCASTER, Pa. (AP)—The Amish are expanding their presence in states far beyond Pennsylvania Dutch country as they search for affordable farmland to accommodate a population that has nearly doubled in the past 16 years, a new study found.

States such as Missouri, Kentucky and Minnesota have seen increases in their Amish populations of more than 130 percent. The Amish now number an estimated 227,000 nationwide, up from 123,000 in 1992, according to researchers from Elizabethtown College's Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies.

Over the same period, Amish settlements have been established in seven new states, putting them in at least 28 states from coast to coast. The new states are: Arkansas, Colorado, Maine, Mississippi, Nebraska, Washington and West Virginia.

"When we think they might be dying out or merely surviving, they are actually thriving," said Elizabethtown professor Don Kraybill, a leading expert on the Amish who shared his research from an upcoming book with The Associated Press.

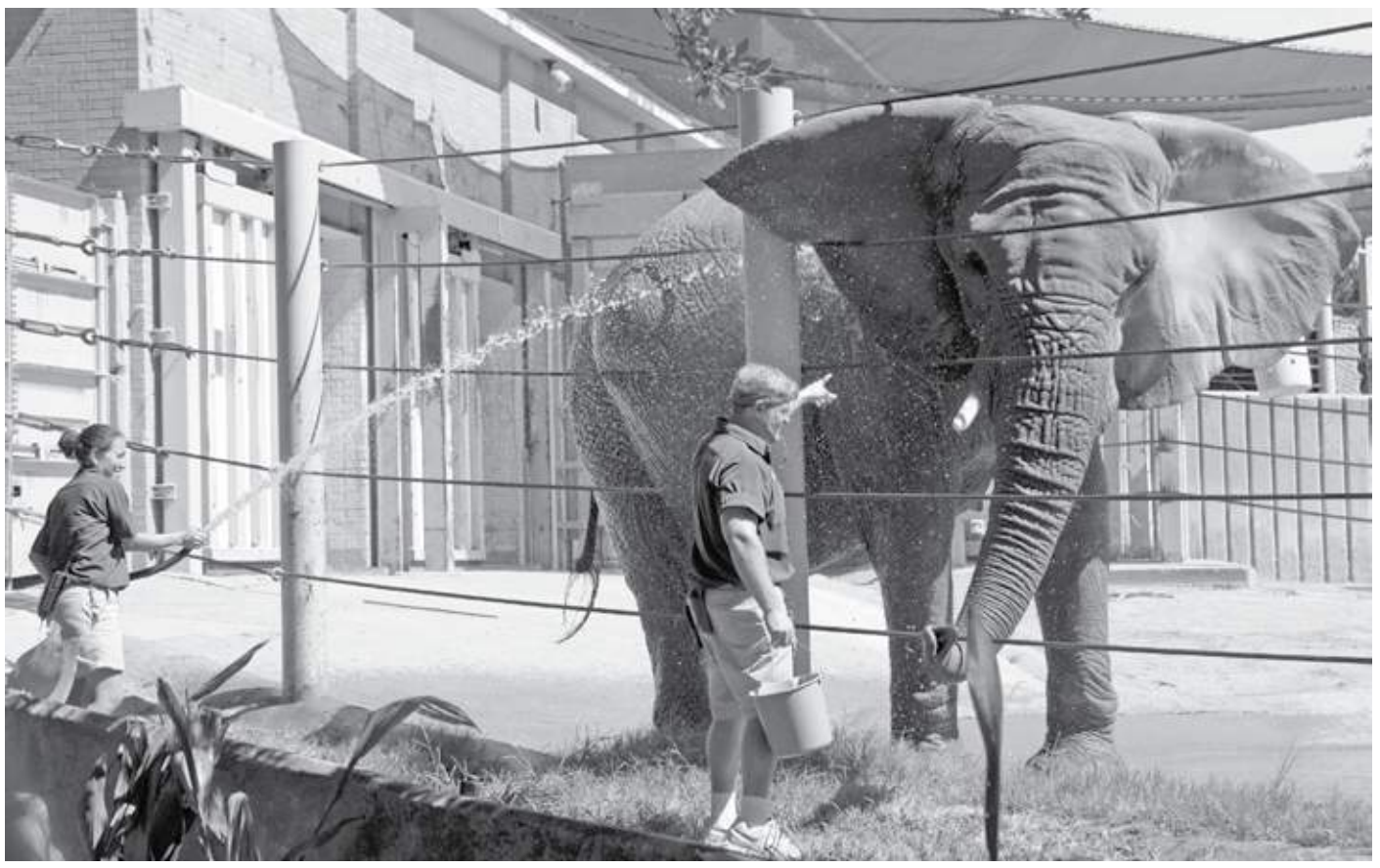
Fay floods hundreds of Fla. homes

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. (AP)—Emergency crews launched airboats into submerged streets Wednesday to rescue central Florida residents trapped by rising floodwaters from a stalled Tropical Storm Fay, which soaked the state for a third consecutive day. Meanwhile, Gov. Charlie Crist requested an emergency disaster declaration from the federal government to defray rising debris and response costs. Crist issued his own disaster order ahead of the advancing storm several days ago, when it seemed the Florida Keys would get the worst. Instead, Fay skipped almost harmlessly over the island chain, but stalled over the peninsula on a second swing through Florida. There, it has done the most damage.

On Wednesday, officials reported flooding in hundreds of homes in Brevard and St. Lucie counties, some by up to 5 feet of standing water. In three towns, rising waters backed up sewage systems. It wasn't immediately clear how many residents had been displaced or were stranded, but county officials reported making dozens of rescues.

"We can't even get out of our house," said Billie Dayton of Port St. Lucie, as waters lapped at her porch. "We're just hoping that it doesn't rain anymore."

The Florida National Guard mobilized about a dozen guardsmen and some high-water vehicles to assist with damage assessment and help with evacuations, said Jon Myatt, spokesman for the Florida Department of Military Affairs.



AP

STAYING PUT

Dallas Zoo keepers Gavin Eastep, center, feeds treats to Jenny, an African elephant as zoo keeper Reanna Streater cools her with a spray of water, Tuesday, July 29, 2008. The Dallas Zoo announced Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2008, that the 9,000-pound pachyderm will remain at her home of 22 years and will eventually get a new companion. Dallas Zoo officials had planned to ship Jenny to a wildlife park in Mexico after her companion died in May. African elephants become unhappy when left alone.

ACROSS THE NATION

Man dies when bluff collapses at San Diego beach

SAN DIEGO (AP)—San Diego authorities say a man has died after a stretch of rugged ocean-side bluff collapsed on him at Torrey Pines State Beach. The section of cliff gave way early Wednesday afternoon, several hundred feet below the Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego. The man suffered severe head trauma after being hit by falling rock. The beach and parts of the bluff surrounding the collapse have been closed.

Parts of Texas pounded with up to 9 inches of rain

DALLAS (AP)—Heavy rains settled in across areas of North Texas for the sixth consecutive day Wednesday, weakening a bridge and forcing postponement of a homecoming parade planned Saturday for Olympic gold medalist Nastia Liukin. Stacie Hanes, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Fort Worth, said several towns in North Texas received 3 to 4 inches of rain with the latest round of storms. Parts of Collin County north of Dallas got up to 9 inches. Robert Salazar, an officer with the Fairview Police Department, said the latest rains weakened the supports of an asphalt bridge over Sloan Creek and made it unsafe to use.

Man may have to pay $22 million for investor scam

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—A man accused of lavishly spending millions of dollars of his investors' money has been tentatively ordered to repay $22 million in the alleged swindle James R. Halstead and his company, GamePlan, Inc., must repay the money to some 80 investors, U.S. District Judge David O. Carter wrote in a tentative summary judgment filed Monday. The fraud lawsuit claimed that from 2004 to 2006, Halstead and others took investor money for securities known as private investment in public equity, or PIPEs, promising returns of up to 40 percent. None of the money was invested. Halstead, 61, of Santa Ana, instead used it for a lavish lifestyle that included $12 million in real estate and hundreds of thousands of dollars in jewelry that he lost in a taxi in Arizona.

Tentative $10M settlement in KC church abuse cases

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—A Roman Catholic diocese has tentatively agreed to pay $10 million to settle nearly 50 sexual abuse claims against the diocese and 12 of its priests. Kansas City-St. Joseph Diocese Bishop Robert W. Finn on Wednesday apologized for the abuse that occurred at the hands of current and former clergy members, and promised that steps are being taken to make sure such abuse never happens again. The deal would settle all current sexual abuse lawsuits pending in Jackson County against the diocese and 12 current or former priests for incidents alleged to have occurred between 1951 and 1992.

Tribal members going home after canyon flooding

PHOENIX (AP)—Eighty Havasupai tribal members returned home Wednesday to a remote village near the Grand Canyon for the first time since a devastating flash flood earlier this week. The Supai residents, evacuated during the weekend to the community of Peach Springs, were taken by bus to helicopters waiting at the rim of the canyon, Bureau of Indian Affairs spokeswoman Adrienne King said. The choppers took four to five people to Supai at a time, bypassing the flood-damaged trail to the village. All the evacuees have returned home, King said Wednesday. More than 420 people, including Havasupai members and tourists, were evacuated by helicopter out of the canyon on Sunday and Monday.

Ruling protects Arizonan who sells anti-war shirts

PHOENIX (AP)—A federal judge on Wednesday permanently barred Arizona from using a state law to prosecute an online merchant who sells shirts that list names of thousands of troops killed in Iraq. U.S. District Judge Neil Wake did not strike down the 2007 law against selling products that use of military casualties' names without families' permission. But he ruled that using the law to prosecute Dan Frazier would violate the Flagstaff man's First Amendment rights because his "Bush Lied—They Died" shirts are "core political speech." "It is impossible to separate the political from the commercial aspects of that display," Wake wrote. "For example, the state argues that Frazier can sell his shirts without displaying the soldiers' names. But Frazier's product is his message, and his customers' message."

AP

Jan Hami, an associate safety engineer at Cal-OSHA, samples water in a container to check its quality as Jesse Leija looks on in a peach orchard Thursday, July 10, 2008 in Raisin City, Calif.

More farm deaths in heat despite Calif. crackdown

RAISIN CITY, Calif. (AP)—California, the nation's leader in heat-related deaths among farmworkers, sought to turn that trend around three years ago with new laws aimed at ensuring people toiling in sweltering fields had such basics as a water break and an umbrella for shade. But if anything, the problem has gotten worse.

Since then, 12 farmworkers have died in suspected heat stroke deaths, six this year alone. That's twice the number of such deaths in the nearly three years before the laws were passed.

An Associated Press investigation found that an understaffed labor agency fails to consistently hold farms and labor contractors accountable for heat deaths or ensure they pay for violations and improve conditions in one of the most brutal jobs in America.

One recent high-profile death of a pregnant, teenage vineyard worker led Cal-OSHA—the state Division of Occupational Safety and Health—to issue a record fine of more than $262,000. But the fines often drop when appealed and have averaged less than $10,000 in other heat-related deaths. In one case, it ended up at just $250.

Currently, 210 state inspectors look for heat-related violations and other safety hazards at farms and all other kinds of work sites. But with just one inspector for every roughly 90,000 workers in California, the gaps are evident.

Newark struggles to curb slayings involving teens

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—Bukhari Washington had resisted the lure of gangs and drugs that derailed the lives of so many in his tough Newark neighborhood.

But that resolve couldn't stop the bullet that tore through the 15-year-old's head on Aug. 14, killing him as he slept in his own bed. Another teen on the floor below says the bullet accidentally fired as he was "fiddling" with a semiautomatic assault rifle he bought for protection.

Washington's death underscores a chronic problem that New Jersey's largest city can't seem to overcome: Teens keep killing each other with guns even as Newark's overall homicide rate is on pace to fall 40 percent.

Washington became Newark's 12th teenage homicide victim of 2008, a number that surpassed the city's total for all of 2007, according to statistics provided by the county prosecutor's office. It is a discouraging turn of events for Mayor Cory A. Booker, who has staked his administration on reducing violent crime and creating programs to help at-risk youth.

"Obviously it is frustrating when guns injure or kill people, but when a young person is hurt, it is a deeper blow," Booker said this week. "We are making strides, but at times your success is punctuated by incidents like this that show how much more work there is to be done."

The circumstances surrounding Washington's death offer insight into the forces at work in Newark, a city of 280,000 that experienced a 50 percent increase in homicides from 2002 to 2006. The spike in crime led the city's teachers union to pay for billboards that screamed, "HELP WANTED: Stop The Killings In Newark Now!"

Killer of train passengers gets 11 life sentences

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A man convicted of causing a deadly commuter rail crash that he blamed on an attempt to commit suicide was sentenced Wednesday to 11 consecutive life terms by a judge who denounced him as a remorseless killer.

Superior Court Judge William Pounders said he would have imposed a sentence of "forever" on Juan Alvarez, if it were possible. Alvarez will not be eligible for parole.

Alvarez parked his gasoline-soaked SUV on railroad tracks in suburban Glendale, where it was struck by a Metrolink train that derailed and struck another Metrolink train traveling in the other direction on Jan. 26, 2005. Eleven people were killed and about 180 were injured.

Asia

Philippines peace in tatters after rebel attack

KAUSWAGAN, Philippines (AP)—Police special forces with orders to kill headed into the hinterlands of the southern Philippines on Wednesday, seeking Muslim rebels responsible for shooting and hacking 37 people to death in a brutal rampage that has left peace prospects in tatters.

Just weeks ago, a peace deal to end a decades-long insurgency in the troubled south had seemed within reach after the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front initialed an agreement on the crucial point of ancestral domain—the size of an expanded Muslim autonomous area.

But Christian politicians in areas that would be affected challenged the deal in the Supreme Court. Two rebel commanders—described as frustrated with yet another delay in the peace process—then led their men on pre-dawn raids Monday on five coastal towns, killing 37 people and sending another 44,000 fleeing their homes in Lanao del Norte province.

Since then, the military and police have poured forces into the region. They were initially told to avoid clashes that could squelch peace prospects, but it appeared the gloves were coming off Wednesday. "If you want peace, prepare for war," police Deputy Director General Jesus A. Verzosa told about 300 commandos from the national police's elite Special Action Force. "These terrorist invaders want war. Go and give death to the invaders."

Press Secretary Jesus Dureza has also said that officials are concerned that the rebel leadership may not be able to control all its forces.

Last month's accord, forged after years of negotiations between the government and the 11,000-strong rebel front, called for adding more than 700 villages to an existing Muslim autonomous region in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation. Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera told the Supreme Court Wednesday "circumstances have changed" after the recent attacks.

AP

Evacuees arrive by boat to return to their homes Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2008 in Kolambugan in southern Philippines after they are assured of protection from the military.

Zardari backed for Pakistan president

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—A major opposition party on Wednesday backed Benazir Bhutto's widower to become Pakistan's president, as the power struggle following the resignation of Pervez Musharraf intensified.

Asif Ali Zardari leads the largest party in the ruling coalition, whose drive to impeach Musharraf persuaded the stalwart U.S. ally to quit after nine tumultuous years in power. Zardari has played down speculation that he covets the top job.

Zardari

However, opposition backing will strengthen his hand in a struggle with coalition partner Nawaz Sharif over a compromise candidate to fill the post and the even more urgent issue of restoring judges purged by the former army strongman.

A leader of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement, Haider Razvi, said it wanted Zardari as president because of his past sacrifices and for his "wisdom and vision" in handling Musharraf's ouster.

The MQM, a strong backer of Musharraf, is the second-largest opposition group in Parliament.

It dominates Karachi, Pakistan's biggest city, and other urban areas in the southern province of Sindh and recently buried its long animosity with Zardari's Pakistan People's Party.

Razvi called for a president from outside Punjab, the country's largest and wealthiest province, and said Zardari—a Sindhi—was "most eligible" for the job.

"He is a strong believer in the federation," Razvi said.

Sarkozy visits Kabul after 10 French soldiers killed

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—French President Nicolas Sarkozy vowed Wednesday that French troops would stick it out in Afghanistan despite an exceptionally deadly attack and frustration at home about the war.

"We have to be here," he said while visiting Kabul, adding that he had no regrets about sending 700 reinforcements to the French contingent. "If it had to be done again, I would do it."

■■■

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—NATO says three of its soldiers were killed when their vehicle struck a roadside bomb in central Afghanistan. The alliance says the blast occurred in the central Ghazni province on Wednesday. It did not provide soldiers nationalities. Polish troops patrol the province.

More than 3,400 people—mostly militants—have been killed in insurgency-related violence this year, according to an Associated Press count based on figures from Western and Afghan officials.

■■■

Sarkozy spoke to French troops from units who lost some of the 10 soldiers killed in a fierce Taliban ambush and firefight in mountains about 30 miles east of Kabul on Monday. It was the deadliest attack on international troops in Afghanistan since 2005.

AP

Afghan President Hamid Karzai, left, listen to French President Nicolas Sarkozy at president palace in Kabul, Afghanistan, Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2008.

4 more foreign activists detained in China

BEIJING (AP)—Two elderly Chinese women who applied to hold a protest during the Olympics were ordered to spend a year in a labor camp, a relative said Wednesday. Police later squelched a pro-Tibet demonstration.

The women were still at home three days after being officially notified they would have to serve a yearlong term of reeducation through labor, but were under surveillance by a government-backed neighborhood group, said Li Xuehui, the son of one of the women.

Li said no cause was given for the order to imprison his 79-year-old mother, Wu Dianyuan, and her neighbor Wang Xiuying, 77.

"Wang Xiuying is almost blind and disabled. What sort of re-education through labor can she serve?" Li said in a telephone interview. "But they can also be taken away at any time."

Meanwhile, swarms of plainclothes police set upon four foreign activists early Thursday as they tried to stage a protest against Chinese rule over Tibet—the latest in a series of unsanctioned demonstrations to occur during the Olympics. Beijing announced last month that it would allow protests in three parks far from the Olympic venues during the games but they had to be approved in advance. Of the some 77 applications lodged so far, none have been approved, and rights groups have called the zones a charade.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Typhoon Nuri leaving 7 dead in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Rains from Typhoon Nuri triggered a series of landslides and floods in the northern Philippines, killing seven people before the storm moved on Thursday toward Hong Kong. Nuri was packing winds of 87 miles per hour and gusts of up to 106 mph. The Office of Civil Defense said three brothers aged 1, 3 and 10 years were killed when their house in Itogon township in Benguet province was swept away. Another landslide in Itogon killed a 72-year-old woman in her kitchen. Itogon is about 125 miles (200 kilometers) north of Manila. Two other people died in landslides and one was killed by a fallen tree, the civil defense said. One person was reported missing.

At least 74 killed in storms in northern India

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—Police say at least 74 people have been killed as heavy monsoon rains lash northern India. Uttar Pradesh state police spokesman Surendra Srivastava says Thursday that most of the deaths were caused by poorly constructed buildings collapsing under the deluge. The Hindu holy city of Varanasi received the most rain with 11.5 inches falling in 24 hours, meteorological officials say, predicting more rain in the next few days. Floods, mudslides, house collapses and lightning strikes have killed more than 300 people across the country so far this year.

Missile strike reported in northwest Pakistan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—Missiles destroyed a suspected militant hide-out near the Afghan border Wednesday where foreign insurgents were known to frequent, killing at least five people, Pakistani officials said. The reported strike—which raised suspicion the U.S. was again targeting militants in Pakistan—came days after Pervez Musharraf's resignation from the presidency triggered a power struggle within the young government. Leaders of the ruling coalition are divided over who should succeed the former military ruler and on the restoration of dozens of judges he fired last year in a desperate attempt to cling to power. Four intelligence officials told The Associated Press that the missiles destroyed a compound near Wana, the main town in the South Waziristan tribal region.

Sri Lankan troops break through rebel defenses

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—The Sri Lankan military says it has broken through the Tamil Tigers' defenses in recent weeks, ending a prolonged stalemate and stirring predictions of an imminent rebel defeat after 25 years of civil war. Troops overran a major rebel naval base on July 16, then pushed deep into the north, capturing four more bases and entering the rebel's heartland in the Kilinochchi district for the first time in 11 years.

World

Fiery plane crash at Madrid airport kills 153

MADRID, Spain (AP)—A jetliner heading to the popular Canary Islands vacation resort crashed during takeoff Wednesday, turning a wooded area off the end of a runway into a hellish scene of charred bodies and smoldering wreckage. Some 153 were believed dead—Spain's worst air disaster in nearly 25 years.

Only 19 people survived the midafternoon crash of the Spanair MD-82 at Madrid's Barajas International Airport, and some were in critical condition, said Development Minister Magdalena Alvarez, whose department oversees civil aviation in Spain.

The airline didn't release a death toll, but said the plane carried 172 crew members and passengers, including two babies and 20 youngsters. There was no word on how many children died.

As smoke billowed from the wreckage, dozens of fire trucks and ambulances rushed to help, lining a nearby road and filling a field next to a swath of charred vegetation. Helicopters flew over dumping water on fires.

"The scene is devastating," said Pablo Albella, an emergency rescue worker. "The fuselage is destroyed. The plane burned. I have seen a kilometer of charred land and few whole pieces of the fuselage. It is all destruction."

AP

A part of the fuselage of the Spanair jet that crashed on take off at Madrid airport is lifted by a crane on Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2008.

Officials: Deal calls for troop pullback in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraqi and U.S. negotiators have completed a draft security agreement that would see American troops leave Iraqi cities as soon as June 30, Iraqi and American officials told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

In Washington, a senior military official said the deal is acceptable to the U.S. side, subject to formal approval by President Bush. It also requires final acceptance by Iraqi leaders, and some members of Iraq's Cabinet oppose some provisions. Also completed is a companion draft document, known as a strategic framework agreement, spelling out in broad terms the political, security and economic relationships between Iraq and the United States, the senior military official said. The official discussed the draft accords on condition that he not be identified by name because the deals have not been publicly announced and are not final.

In addition to spelling out that U.S. troops would move out of Iraqi cities by next summer, the Iraqi government has pushed for a specific date—most likely the end of 2011—by which all U.S. forces would depart the country. In the meantime, the U.S. troops would be positioned on bases in other parts of the country to make them less visible while positioned to assist Iraqi forces as needed.

Twin car bombings hit Algerian hotel, barracks

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)—Twin car bombs rocked a hotel and military headquarters in Algeria, killing 12 people Wednesday, a day after a suicide bombing nearby killed 43. The new bombings were the sixth major terrorist action this month in the North African nation.

No group has claimed responsibility for the recent spate of killings, including the two remote-controlled car bombs that struck the city of Bouira on Wednesday. But all six occurred in an area east of the capital where militants from an Algerian offshoot of al-Qaida are suspected to operate. Violence in this gas- and oil-rich U.S. ally has surged since the GSPC—a homegrown extremist group that led a deadly insurgency in the 1990s—joined Osama bin Laden's network in 2006 and took the name Al-Qaida in Islamic North Africa.

The death toll surged to more than 70 this month alone, and the relentless bombings led many newspapers to question whether authorities have grown too lenient, or too weak, to fight Islamist extremists.

Jean-Louis Bruguiere, a terrorism expert, says the group is receiving military reinforcements from al-Qaida in Iraq—and using Algeria as a platform to spread instability throughout North Africa and possibly beyond.

Saakashvili doubts Russians will withdraw

TBILISI, Georgia (AP)—Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili said Wednesday that he does not believe Russia will soon withdraw from most of the country, suggesting there was little Georgians could do but offer "passive resistance."

Saakashvili

Saakashvili said Russia's army is thinning out its presence in some of the towns it occupies, but at the same time is seizing new territory in the former Soviet republic.

"What we're seeing now is a clear regrouping and also, again, some kind of deception campaign, saying, 'Look, we're moving out,'" Saakashvili told The Associated Press in an interview at his office in the capital, Tbilisi.

The Russians, he said, "are making fun of the world."

Russia sent tanks and troops into its small Caucasus neighbor after Georgia launched a heavy artillery barrage Aug. 7 against the separatist, pro-Russian province of South Ossetia. Russian forces moved deep into Georgia and continue to hold positions as close as 30 miles from the capital.

AP reporters saw a diminished Russian presence in one key Georgian town, Gori, on Wednesday, two days after Russia promised to begin a withdrawal.

Saakashvili said that while Russia is pulling troops in some places, "They are going around now and trying to grab new strategic areas in Georgia."

With his military unable to mount real resistance and his international allies offering little support, Saakashvili finds himself with few real cards other than pleading for more help.

"We still expect more" of the international community, he said. "We still believe this is not all, that this is just a beginning."

Norway: Russia to cut all military ties with NATO

OSLO, Norway (AP)—Russia has informed Norway that it plans to suspend all military ties with NATO, Norway's Defense Ministry said Wednesday, a day after the military alliance urged Moscow to withdraw its forces from Georgia.

NATO foreign ministers said Tuesday they would make further ties with Russia dependent on Moscow making good on a pledge to pull its troops back to pre-conflict positions in Georgia. However, they stopped short of calling an immediate halt to all cooperation.

The Nordic country's embassy in Moscow received a telephone call from "a well-placed official in the Russian Ministry of Defense," who said Moscow plans "to freeze all military cooperation with NATO and allied countries," Espen Barth Eide, state secretary with the Norwegian ministry said.

Eide told The Associated Press that the Russian official notified Norway it will receive a written note about this soon. He said Norwegian diplomats in Moscow would meet Russian officials on Thursday morning to clarify the implications of the freeze.

"It is our understanding that other NATO countries will receive similar notes," Eide said. The ministry said the Russian official is known to the embassy, but Norway declined to provide a name or any further identifying information.

A Kremlin official declined to comment on the report, and the Russian ambassador to NATO did not reply to messages left on his cell phone. But the Interfax news agency, citing what it called a military-diplomatic source in Moscow whom it did not identify, reported that Russia is reviewing its 2008 military cooperation plans with NATO.

Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Corpse kept upright for 3-day wake in Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—A Puerto Rican man has been granted his wish to remain standing—even in death. A funeral home used a special embalming treatment to keep the corpse of 24-year-old Angel Pantoja Medina standing upright for his three-day wake. Dressed in a Yankees baseball cap and sunglasses, Pantoja was mourned by relatives while propped upright in his mother's living room. His brother Carlos told the El Nuevo Dia newspaper the victim had long said he wanted to be upright for his own wake: "He wanted to be happy, standing." The owner of the Marin Funeral Home, Damaris Marin, told The Associated Press the mother asked him to fulfill her dead son's last wish. Pantoja was found dead Friday underneath a bridge in San Juan and buried Monday. Police are investigating.

Cops: Woman marks birthday by aiding son in heists

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Police in Wisconsin say a woman celebrated her birthday by helping her teenage son rob two gas stations. Officers in the Milwaukee suburb of Greenfield say the 37-year-old woman acted as the getaway driver while her 17-year-old son robbed the stations at gunpoint. Authorities say the pair were in custody Wednesday awaiting charges. Their names were not released. Police say the teen was visiting from Chicago for his mother's birthday. And they say the woman's 13-month-old daughter and two boys ages 10 and 14 rode along during the robberies in Greenfield and Milwaukee. Greenfield police Deputy Inspector Bradley Wentlandt says the younger children have been turned over to child welfare.

Man denied refund for condoms accused of calling 911

ENGLEWOOD, N.J. (AP)—Police said a man called 911 and reported a robbery after a gas station employee refused to give him his money back for an unopened box of condoms. Police said officers responded quickly to the call on Sunday and found a gas station worker who fit the description of the robber given by the caller. Police said the 21-year-old man told them he called 911 and made the bogus report to help him get his money back. Police charged him with making a false report.

Man: Friend's raccoon 'went crazy' and attacked me

DUBUQUE, Iowa (AP)—A man said his friend's raccoon went crazy before it attacked him. Police say Steven Hines called police early Tuesday morning to report that he had been bitten. Hines had agreed to watch the animal for a few days and decided to let it out of its cage for a while. Police said that Hines told officers that when he opened the cage the animal "went crazy" and scratched and bit at his hands and arms. Police say that when they arrived, the raccoon was locked in its cage and appeared calm and tame. The animal was taken to the Humane Society to be examined by a veterinarian.

Canadians receive free Ohio dinner, 15 years later

CANTON, Ohio (AP)—A Canadian couple finally took a restaurant up on an offer that arrived 15 years ago—by balloon. For its 1993 grand opening, Nicky's Restaurant in Canton released balloons with attached cards good for a free dinner for two. One of the balloons made it across Lake Erie and into the backyard of Margaret and Ken Savory in Waterford, Ontario. They were treated to pork chop dinners Tuesday night when they presented the card at Nicky's. Owner Nick Augoustinos says he was shocked that they'd held on to the coupon for so long. Health problems had kept the couple from coming sooner, Margaret Savory said.

Cell phone photo foils man in Pizza Hut plot

ELKO, Nev. (AP)—A man accused of trying to extort $500 from a Pizza Hut in Elko was foiled by his own cell phone camera. Police said a former employee of the restaurant allegedly called the manager on Friday and told him he had five Pizza Hut signs that are used on the roofs of vehicles and wouldn't return them unless he was paid $500. Police said the manager wanted proof that Long had the signs. So the 23-year-old man sent him a cell phone picture that proved to be his undoing. Officers were able to zoom in on license plate numbers of two vehicles in the background that are registered to the man. He's been charged with extortion, possession of stolen property and grand larceny. Bail is set at $15,000.

Wisconsin couple each win $350,000 in lottery

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—This couple won't have to argue about how to spend their lottery winnings. That's because the Mount Horeb husband and wife each won their own $350,000 jackpots in this weekend's SuperCash state lottery.

Lottery officials said Verlyn Adamson bought his winning ticket at a Mineral Point gas station and his wife Judith bought hers from a convenience store in Barnevald.

Verlyn Adamson is an accountant who says he's a big fan of math puzzles. He claims he developed a secret formula that has helped him make money in the lottery over the last 20 years, although he says his winnings have been small compared to this jackpot.

He said his wife, who is his boss at work, had asked if she could play the same numbers he played.

The winning numbers were 6, 10, 11, 19, 21 and 49.

Monkey eludes dragnet at Tokyo train station

TOKYO (AP)—Morning train commuters in Tokyo were joined on their way to work by an unusual companion Wednesday: a wild monkey. A security guard spotted the monkey near ticket gates in Shibuya Station, said Norihiru Masui, a spokesman for train operator Tokyu Corp.

The monkey climbed to a perch high atop a departure board, and around 30 policemen surrounded the area and attempted to snare it with a variety of nets, as commuters crowded around and snapped pictures with their cell phones.

The standoff ended when the monkey climbed down and dashed out of the station, with several policeman and local TV crews in tow. News reports said the monkey was last seen heading in the direction of nearby Yoyogi Park.

AP

A monkey perches on top of a departure board at Tokyo Railway Toyoko Line's Shibuya Station in Tokyo Wednesday morning, Aug. 20, 2008.

The animal appeared to be a Japanese monkey, which are native to the country, and was about 27 inches (70 centimeters) long from head to the tip of the tail. No one was injured and no trains were delayed in the incident.

Japanese media have reported several monkey sightings in Tokyo recently, but it was unclear if they involved the same animal.

Monkeys have long made appearances in rural parts of Japan, where they have been known to damage crops, swipe food from grocery stalls and even bite humans. In recent years, growth in the monkey population has meant more frequent forays out of the forests and into farms and towns.

Man drives home 53rd new Cadillac in 53 years

FLINT, Mich. (AP)—There are loyal customers, and then there's Joseph Macko. The 84-year-old Flint man has bought or leased a new Cadillac every year since 1955, the year Disneyland opened in Anaheim, Calif. "You only live one time. Money is to spend," he told The Flint Journal. "I spend it once I get it."

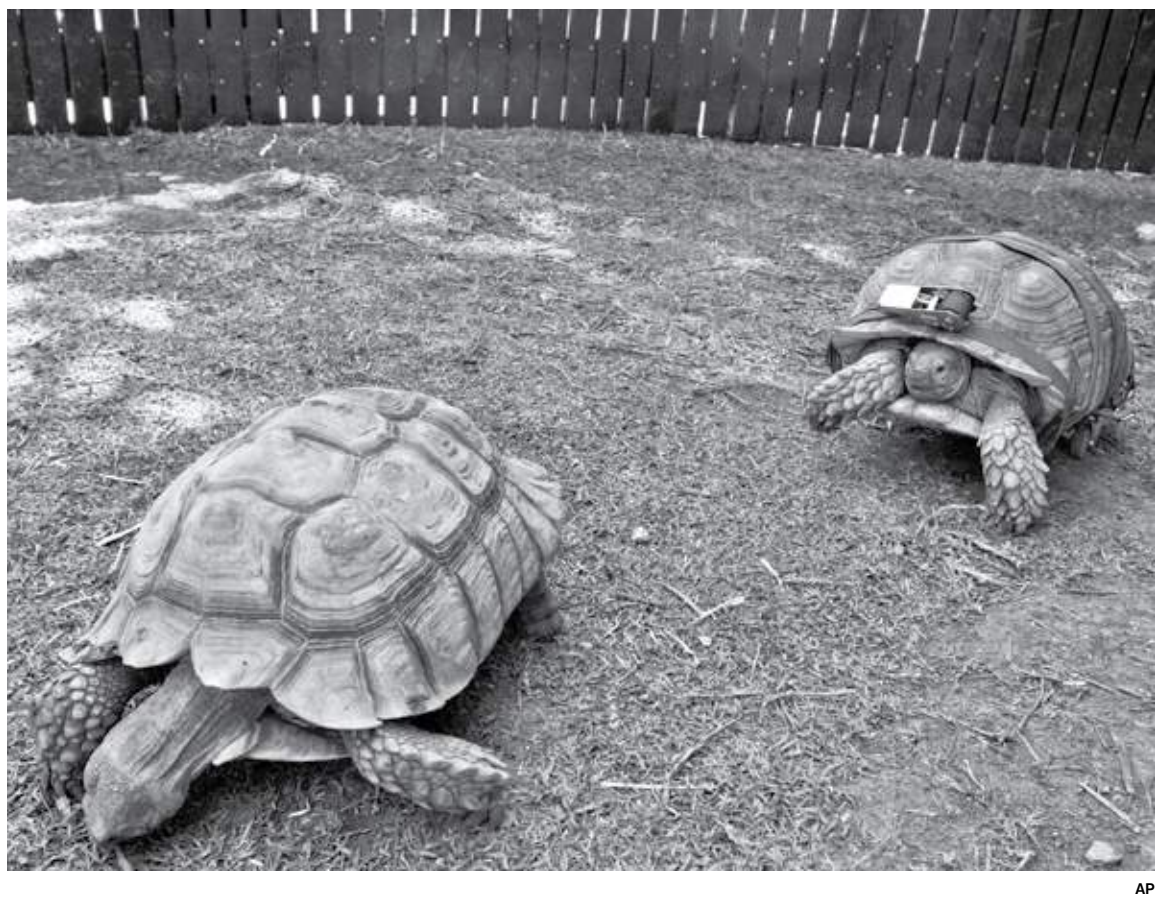
Macko, a retired General Motors Corp. worker, used to buy a new car every year, but he's been leasing the last few years. Last week, he drove home this year's fresh set of wheels—a black 2009 Cadillac DTS—from the Al Serra Auto Plaza in Grand Blanc. "He looks forward every year to buying a new car," said Gordon Taylor, who has been Macko's salesman for 22 years. "He wants that same vehicle."

Marcella Macko said her husband isn't the spendthrift he might seem—he saves up all year to pay for a new car.

But, she said, she just doesn't get excited anymore about the annual ritual.

"He does, but I don't," she said.

Disabled turtle finds romance after getting wheels



AP

Arava, a disabled tortoise, right, crawls inside an enclosure with a custom skateboard attached to her shell that helps her move around, at the Biblical Zoo in Jerusalem, Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2008.

JERUSALEM (AP)—Arava the disabled turtle is using her new set of wheels to get around in more ways than one. Officials at the Jerusalem Biblical Zoo say the 10-year-old spurred tortoise has begun mating since being fitted with a custom skateboard to overcome paralysis of her hind legs.

The 55-pound turtle is unable to move herself forward with her front legs alone. So the zoo's staff built her a metal board with two wheels that can be strapped to her stomach.

Arava arrived in Jerusalem a few months ago from a petting zoo in southern Israel with the unexplained handicap, and found no reptile romance. Zoo curator Shmulik Yedvad says it's not that Arava has come out of her shell with her unique new wheelchair, but that a particularly amorous 10-year-old male has been after her.

Boy wanders into Mexico after school bus mix-up

YUMA, Ariz. (AP)—School officials in San Luis, Ariz., are investigating a busing mix-up that ended with a 6-year-old boy wandering alone in Mexico.

Gadsden Elementary School District board President Luis Marquez says that if any failure is found in the school transportation system, it will be corrected immediately. The boy was headed home last week when he boarded a school bus with a different route than the one he usually takes.

The boy's mother said her son was disoriented when he got off and crossed into San Luis Rio Colorado, Mexico. She says her son thought he could reach his grandfather's home in Mexico.

The 6-year-old was returned home safely after being found by a passer-by in Mexico.

Science & Technology

Lighter laptops

By ROB PEGORARO
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Cheap, lightweight laptops have quietly gotten better over the past year.

This end of the home-use market is no longer owned by heavy, hot, battery-draining machines running on desktop processors that barely keep up with current software. Not that there isn't a market for such things, but "desktop replacement" laptops poorly serve college students and others who regularly take a computer away from a desk.

Much credit for this improvement goes to a new crop of efficient, compact processors that put out less heat and don't need to be cooled by an array of noisy fans. They've given far more options to budget-minded shoppers who want less than five pounds of laptop hanging off their shoulders.

But here's a downside to this new wealth of portable-PC choices: Almost any new model will do. Buy one with a laptop-optimized processor (Intel's Core 2 Duo has been running away with the light-laptop market) and enough memory (at least a gigabyte on a Mac, 2 GB on a Windows Vista PC), and you can't go wrong.

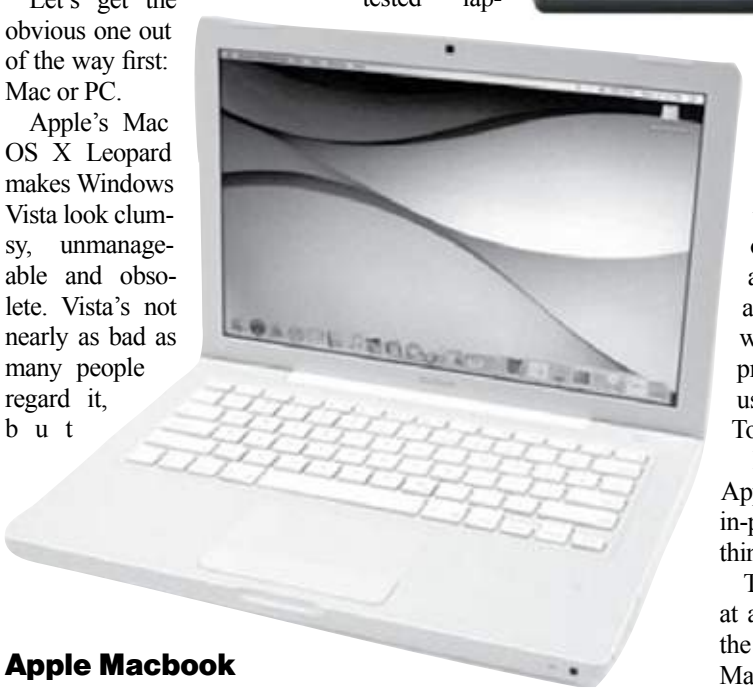
That was one conclusion from a test drive of four new laptops: Apple's MacBook, Dell's Inspiron 1318, HP's Pavilion tx2500z and Toshiba's Satellite U405-S2854. All featured 12- or 13-inch widescreen LCD screens; weighed just under five pounds; provided more hard-drive space than desktops did a few years ago; and threw in such luxury items as high-speed WiFi, Bluetooth wireless (except on the Dell) and built-in webcams. They'd all suffice for everyday home computing.

But plenty of other things still set them apart.

Let's get the obvious one out of the way first: Mac or PC.

Apple's Mac OS X Leopard makes Windows Vista look clumsy, unmanageable and obsolete. Vista's not nearly as bad as many people regard it, but Microsoft's year-and-a-half-old operating system can't match OS X's simplicity and relative security.

Apple also provides superior music, photo and video programs with its iLife suite; simple and automatic backup tools; and the Boot Camp software that lets you install Windows alongside OS X. Note that of the four tested laptops, only the $1,099 MacBook shipped without any third-party "trialware."

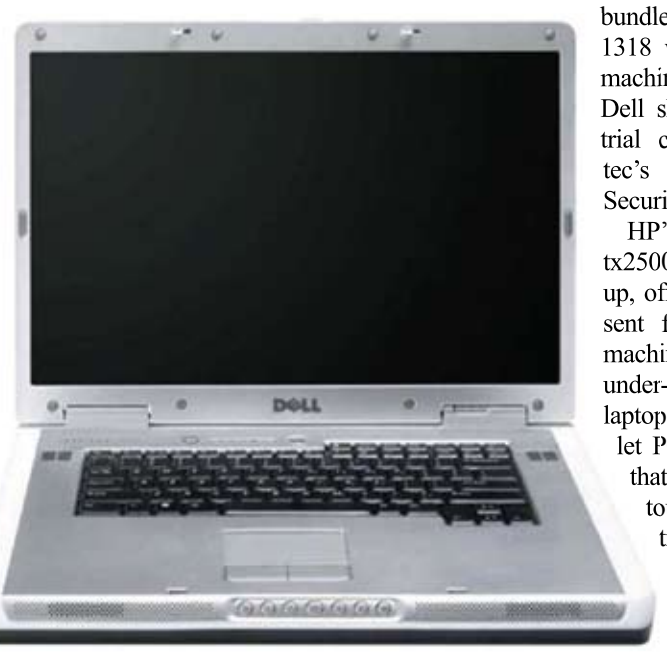


Apple Macbook

This MacBook ran longer than the other three laptops on one charge while playing a DVD. It lasted three hours and 17 minutes, compared with 2:15 for the Dell (a "preproduction" unit lacking the usual stickers), 2:03 for the Toshiba and 2:00 for the HP.

Buyers who live near an Apple Store can also get free in-person tech support — something other vendors don't offer.

That said, Apple has put itself at a temporary disadvantage in the cheap-laptop market. The MacBook's basic design has gone two years without major upgrades — it seems obvious that Apple will redo it soon.



Dell Inspiron 1318

In the meantime, many cheaper Windows laptops now match the MacBook's features and add more memory and storage options, such as extra USB ports and memory-card slots.

Dell's Inspiron 1318, for example, sells for $698 at Wal-Mart's site — look for it on Dell's site later this month. It includes some of Apple's stylish refinements, such as a slot-loading disc drive. But this bargain-bin model's drive burns DVDs as well as CDs, and the 1318 includes a slot for SD cards and memory sticks, too. (Less desirable: the glossy, glare-prone screen.)

Dell also seems to have learned from its past errors with bundled software: The 1318 was the cleanest machine I've ever seen Dell ship, with only a trial copy of Symantec's Norton Internet Security.

HP's Pavilion tx2500z, at $900 and up, offers a feature absent from any Apple machines and most under-$1,000 Windows laptops — it's a tablet PC, with a screen that swivels to invite touch-screen control and text entry with an included stylus. This model, too, can burn DVDs and CDs; if you buy special LightScribe discs, it can write labels on them, too. You can even eject the drive to cut weight.

The tested model, however, came with only a 12.1-inch screen, as glare-friendly as the Dell's, instead of the 13.3-inch displays of the other three. Such ill-chosen upgrades as the Ultimate Edition of Windows Vista bloated its price to $1,539.

The tx2500z's software bundle was about as cluttered as older HP models' — though still worlds better than the junk accumulated on Toshiba's drive.

Toshiba's $950 Satellite U405 combined capable, if sometimes odd, hardware (USB ports that can recharge your gadgets while the laptop sleeps and the old-fashioned ingredient of an FM radio) with a laughably bad software bundle. Much of it — the desktop clogged with irrelevant shortcuts, the pre-installed software for little-used music and video stores, the online help centered on a lengthy PDF file — betrayed a lack of consideration for what a customer would actually need.

Toshiba Satellite

HP Pavilion tx2500z

When laptops start to look more like commodities, manufacturers need to pay more attention to the little details that set them apart and that let a buyer know somebody put serious thought into the machine. Apple learned that long ago, and Dell may have finally picked up on it, as well. What are other vendors waiting for?

How the laptops measure up

By ROB PEGORARO
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

1. HP Pavilion tx2500z, $1,539

12.1-in. swiveling touch screen, 4.9 lbs. (power adapter adds 0.8 lbs.)

Battery life: 2 hours for DVD playback, 2:24 for MP3 playback

Notes: Tablet PC. Absurd amount of memory and hard drive (4 GB and 320 GB). Only model to include a dial-up modem. ExpressCard slot stores a nifty little remote control.

2. Toshiba Satellite U405-S2854, $950

13.3-in. screen, 4.6 lbs. (power adapter adds 0.9 lbs.)

Battery life: 2:03 for DVD playback, 2:31 for MP3 playback

Notes: Plain but generally competent machine that suffers from a thoroughly mediocre software bundle. FM radio seems out of place.

3. Apple MacBook, $1,099

13.3-in. screen, 4.9 lbs (power adapter adds 0.6 lbs.)

Battery life: 3:17 for DVD playback, 3:37 for MP3 playback

Notes: Runs Mac OS X, but can run Windows as well. Seems overpriced, considering limited memory and storage and lack of DVD-burning capability. High odds of being replaced by a new design.

4. Dell Inspiron 1318, $698

13.3-in. screen, 4.9 lbs. (power adapter adds 0.8 lbs.)

Battery life: 2:15 for DVD playback, 3:07 for MP3 playback

Notes: Dirt cheap and yet fairly stylish, but no Bluetooth and relatively little memory and storage. Blissfully clean software bundle.

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Q: For months now, someone in the 202 area code has been trying to send my BlackBerry a fax. I've tried calling and faxing the mystery faxer, without effect. Can I get my wireless carrier to block the call?

A: Years ago, I would occasionally enjoy the delightful experience of picking up my phone at work, only to hear the screech of a fax machine. That was annoying enough, and I wasn't paying for any airtime minutes back then!

Unfortunately, if some bozo is besieging your cellphone with misguided faxes, you may have no options. Two of the four major nationwide carriers, Sprint Nextel and T-Mobile, don't offer any way for customers to block calls from particular numbers.

AT&T Wireless, however, offers a $4.99-a-month add-on called Smart Limits. It's intended for parents who want to regulate who can reach a child's phone, but it would work in this scenario, too.

Verizon Wireless, meanwhile, plans to offer a usage-controls option for most of its phones this month, though it hasn't announced a price.

■ ■ ■

Q: Is there a mobile-phone edition of Wikipedia? The real thing takes forever to load on my cell.

A: The next time you need to settle a bar bet, you can choose from a few phone-friendly versions of the user-generated, user-edited encyclopedia. Its official mobile-phone edition, en.mobile.wikipedia.org, provides the text, but not the images, of the original. For more visual detail, an ad-supported, third-party site, wapedia.mobi, features thumbnail versions of Wikipedia's illustrations.

Wikipedia's home page doesn't link to any mobile edition, which led me to note this ethical issue on my blog: Would it be wrong for me to edit the home page to fix that oversight?

New PCs can wake up when they get phone calls

NEW YORK (AP)—Intel Corp. is unveiling new technology that will let computers wake up from their power-saving sleep state when they receive a phone call over the Internet.

Current computers have to be fully on to receive a call, making them impractical and energy-wasters as replacements for the telephone.

The new component Intel is announcing Thursday will let computers automatically return to a normal, full-powered state when a call comes in. The computer can activate its microphone and loudspeaker to alert the user, then connect the call.

"This certainly helps the PC become a much better center of communications in the home," said Trevor Healy, chief executive of Jajah, which will be the first Internet telephone company to utilize the feature.

The first Intel motherboards with the Remote Wake capability will be shipping in the next month, said Joe Van De Water, director of consumer product marketing for Intel.

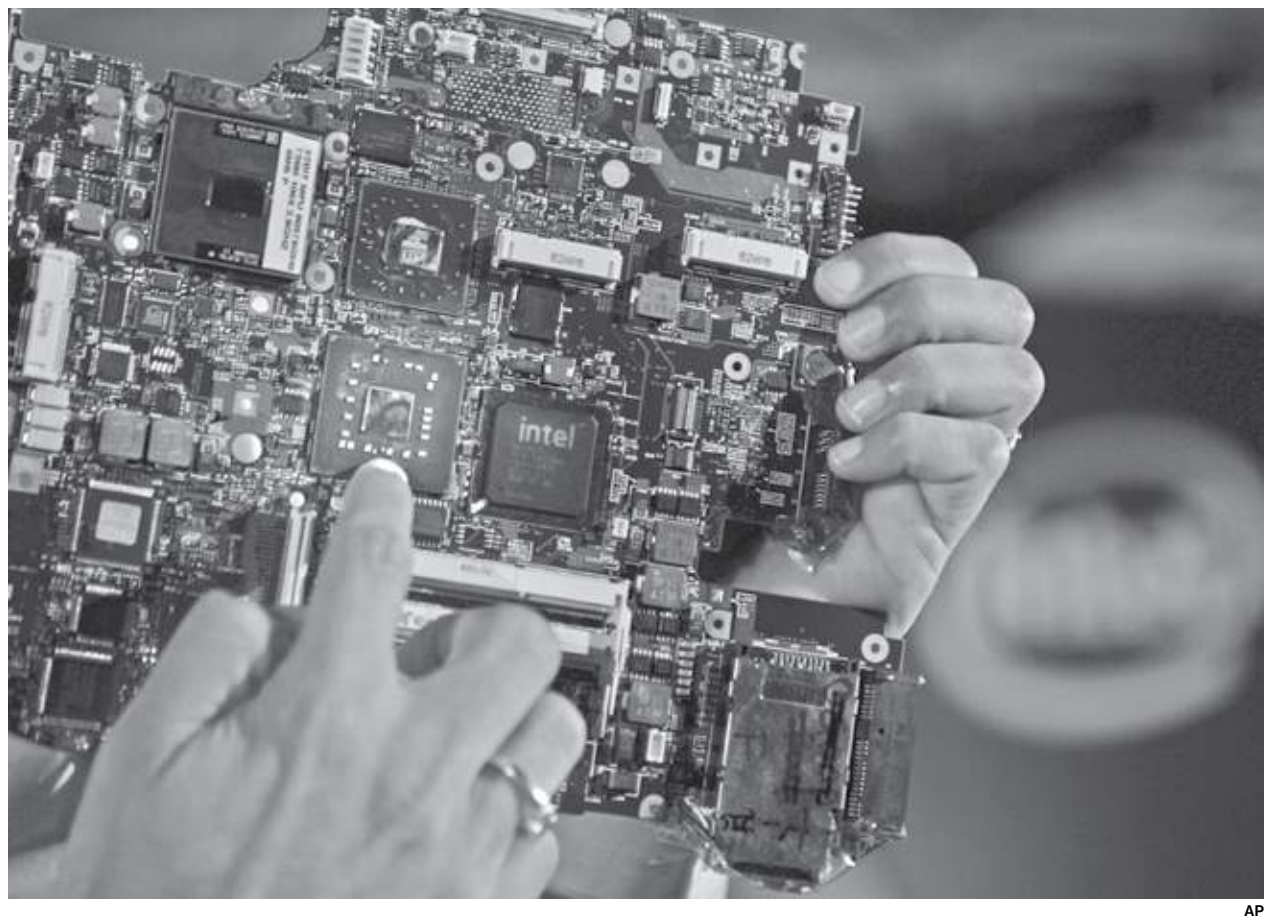
These components, which are at the heart of every computer, will most likely be used by smaller computer manufacturers. Bigger names like Dell Inc. and Hewlett-Packard Co. use their own motherboard solutions, but Intel is working to supply them with the technology as well.

The four initial Remote Wake motherboards will be for desktop computers and will need an Internet connection via Ethernet cable, as Wi-Fi doesn't work in sleep mode.

Van De Water said the computer will know to wake up only for calls from services to which the user has subscribed, so computer-waking prank calls should be impossible.

Mountain View, Calif.-based Jajah is setting itself up as a link between Web companies and the phone system. In April, it signed a deal to become the phone service provider for Yahoo Inc.'s Messenger. Jajah intends to offer the ability to wake up computers to other instant-messaging and Internet voice services, like Google Inc.'s Talk and Microsoft Corp.'s Windows Live Messenger, Healy said. It will be able to wake up subscriber computers both for calls dialed with a number and for those that are directed at a user name.

A fully on desktop PC usually consumes more than 60 watts of power, with many models ranging into the hundreds of watts. In the so-called S3 sleep state, they consume around 10 watts.



AP

Intel South Asia, Director Sales, R. Ravichandran, unseen, shows newly launched Intel Centrino 2 processor technology in the planner (mother board) of a laptop, at a press conference, in New Delhi, India, in this Tuesday, July 15, 2008 file photo.

Friendster supports applications for rival sites

NEW YORK (AP)—Friendster, an early online social network that has faded in the United States but remains strong in Asia, has begun letting programmers create photo-sharing applications and other programs that work on Friendster as well as rival sites.

Friendster had already announced support for this initiative, a Google Inc.-led plan called OpenSocial. But this week Friendster released the software tools that let outside programmers easily adapt chats, games and other functions initially made for other online hangouts.

By participating in OpenSocial, now backed as well by Yahoo Inc. and News Corp.'s MySpace, outside programmers can make their applications work on multiple sites with minimal tweaking.

That could, for instance, encourage developers of media-sharing tools for MySpace to adapt their programs for Friendster.

If the programs had to be written from scratch, the effort might not be worthwhile, given Friendster's smaller audience—1.8 million in the U.S. in July, compared with 39 million for Facebook and 75 million for MySpace, according to comScore.

Likewise, programmers aiming to reach Friendster's Asian users can easily adapt their tools for MySpace's audience in the United States and elsewhere.

Friendster's use in the United States has fallen with the rise of newer online hangouts. Still, Friendster has been hot in Asia, particularly in the Philippines and other markets that the leading U.S. social networks are trying to tap as domestic online advertising growth slows down.

Facebook has yet to publicly back OpenSocial, though Facebook has had tremendous success encouraging developers to write tools specifically for it.

Other participants in OpenSocial include hi5, LinkedIn, Ning, Google's Orkut and Bebo, which Time Warner Inc.'s AOL recently bought for $850 million.

This Icon sounds like a worthy desktop centerpiece

By KEVIN HUNT
(C) 2008, THE HARTFORD COURANT

As digital music drifts further down the audio chain into cell phones, here comes a freaky little desktop amplifier called the Nuforce Icon that will stop the MP3 generation in its tracks.

The Icon, no bigger than Madonna's little black book (the paperback version), suggests what music in the home might become if we don't devolve into a nation of iPhone or iPod or iTouch speaker-dock addicts. At its best, this $249 device summons something far greater than dock-quality music.

The lowly 12-watt Icon is not out of its league, away from the desktop, paired with $3,000 speakers in a full-blown sound system.

Maybe it shouldn't have been such a shock. The Icon is the first product for the masses from Nuforce of Milpitas, Calif., which helped turn a different kind of amplifier—highly efficient, cool-running featherweights built on a microchip—into a high-end phenomenon. Now Nuforce adds the Icon to a collection of amplifiers that tops off with the $5,000-a-pair Reference 9 SE V2.

The Icon, only a single pound fully dressed in its anodized-aluminum chassis, has a lot more going for it than snob appeal. It's a first-class multi-tasker.

For those with music libraries on a computer, the Icon's USB connection converts digital music (Mac or Windows) into an analog signal that's passed along to your speakers.

Nuforce Icon

As the centerpiece of a desktop audio system, the Icon connects to an iPod or DVD player the traditional, analog way.

The Icon's a headphone amplifier, too. Or a preamplifier. Or an amplifier in a standard stereo system, no computer or iPod attached.

Just add speakers.

The Icon won't fool anyone, either. Its Apple-like design has two knobs, a volume control and input selector, with a slip-on, silicone stand.

Nuforce's technology descends from switching amplifiers, also known as Class D amplifiers, popularized several years ago by the unlikely success of the Sonic Impact T-Amp (no longer made), which produced remarkable sound, and 10 watts of power, for the price of a DVD. Such amplifiers are often called digital amplifiers, even though the output is controlled by an analog signal.

Nuforce calls its products "analog switching amplifiers." By any terminology, lightweight Class D switching amps sound smooth and sweet, almost like old vacuum-tube equipment. That's why high-enders like Nuforce so much.

They'll like the Icon, too. But I like it because it sounds so good in so many ways. I spent a week in a Maine cottage rental with the Icon, a pair of Nuforce's S-1 speakers, a Macbook and an external hard drive holding more than 7,000 songs in CD-quality digital files. The entire setup took up less room than a cooler on the drive up.

Back at home, I listened to CDs on a PlayStation 3 linked to the Icon, then tried my Nano through the Icon's mini-jack while listening to PSB bookshelf speakers. Then, later at night, out came the headphones. And, yes, I even connected the Icon-Nano duo to a pair of Gallo Reference speakers—which now go for $3,000.

In every setting, with every speaker, the Icon behaved like an amplifier more powerful than 12 watts and much more refined than the everyday $249 amplifier.

I detected only two missteps.

Nuforce got too cute with the speakers. These are extremely well-made bookshelf models, at $249 a pair, but Nuforce built an equalization network just for the S-1 into the Icon that requires Cat-5 computer cables, not standard speaker cables.

So the Icon has snap-in Ethernet-type connectors that will baffle consumers. It's not worth it. The speakers, which image spectacularly but have no bottom end, don't quite succeed like the Icon.

Nuforce supplies cables with the appropriate RJ-45 connector at one end and banana connectors for standard speakers at the other. But that means you're stuck with only one type, and only 1 meter, of cable.

The Icon, when turned on, also sends a slight pop through your speakers.

Neither complaint will stop me from calling the Icon one of the year's hottest new products.

It doesn't matter if you match it with hot-rod or bargain-basement speakers. This little Icon sings.

Hunt is The Courant's consumer electronics columnist.

Nuforce Icon desktop amplifier

Price: $249
Hot: Great-sounding, compact amplifier suited to computers and traditional stereo systems.
Not: Unusual, Ethernet-type speaker connections.
Alternative: Trends Audio TA-10 amplifier ($150, trendsudio.com), but no USB connection.
Information: www.nuforce.com

Life & Style

BEST SELLERS

Nonfiction

1 ***The Last Lecture***, by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow (Hyperion: $21.95) A professor's terminal cancer inspires a call to seize life's moments.

2 ***When You Are Engulfed in Flames***, by David Sedaris (Little, Brown: $25.99) Musings on life and smoking.

3 ***Goodnight Bush***, by Erich Origen and Gan Golan (Little, Brown: $14.99) A parody of the children's classic Goodnight Moon.

4 ***The Secret***, by Rhonda Byrne (Beyond Words: $23.95) Life's secrets, distilled from oral tradition, literature, religion and philosophy.

5 ***Life With My Sister Madonna***, by Christopher Ciccone with Wendy Leigh (Simon Spotlight Entertainment: $26) A brother's tale of life with the famous entertainer.

6 ***sTORI Telling***, by Tori Spelling (Simon Spotlight: $24.95) The old-school 90210 star tells all.

7 ***Just Who Will You Be?*** by Maria Shriver (Hyperion: $14.95) Ask who, not what, you want to be.

8 ***The Dark Side***, by Jane Mayer (Doubleday: $27.50) Mayer argues that the White House amassed power in the post-9/11 state of panic to devastating results.

9 ***Prosecution of George W. Bush for Murder***, by Vincent Bugliosi (Perseus Publishing: $26.95) An indictment that argues that the president be held accountable for crimes related to the Iraq War.

10 ***The Obama Nation***, by Jerome R. Corsi (Threshold Editions: $28) The reasons against an Obama presidency and why he should be defeated.

Fiction

1 ***Breaking Dawn***, by Stephenie Meyer (Little Brown: $22.99) The final book in the Twilight saga finds Bella choosing immortality as a vampire.

2 ***Moscow Rules***, by Daniel Silva (Putnam: $26.95) The death of a journalist leads Gabriel Allon to a Russian arms dealer.

3 ***The Story of Edgar Sawtelle***, by David Wroblewski (Ecco: $25.95) A mute dog breeder is banished by his uncle in this twist on Hamlet.

4 ***The Host***, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $25.99) Alien invaders take over the minds of humans.

5 ***Eclipse***, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $19.99) In Vol. 3 of this vampire saga, Bella must choose between her lover and a friend, life and death.

6 ***The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao***, by Junot Diaz (Riverhead: $24.95) A sci-fi-loving nerd and his immigrant family are haunted by the past.

7 ***Brida***, by Paulo Coelho (Harper: $24.95) An aspiring young Irish magician embarks on a quest for knowledge of the spiritual world.

8 ***The Enchantress of Florence***, by Salman Rushdie (Random House: $26) A traveler arrives at the Mughal emperor's court with a beguiling tale.

9 ***The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society***, by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows (Dial Press: $22) A writer's correspondence with an island's inhabitants in the aftermath of German occupation.

10 ***The Art of Racing in the Rain***, by Garth Stein (Harper: $23.95) A dog's-eye view of love, loyalty and sacrifice.

(C) 2008 LOS ANGELES TIMES

Vader love triangle? New chemistry in 'Clone Wars'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Darth Vader: Sith lord, murderous imperialist, deadbeat dad ... dirty old man? The latest entry into the "Star Wars" canon features a new, female character whose charms are not lost on Anakin Skywalker, the Jedi general on the brink of becoming the baddest bad guy the galaxy has ever known.

Ahsoka Tano—who easily out-toughs even Princess Leia in her prime—is smart, sassy and skilled with a light saber. And despite that she's merely a teen 'toon, Ahsoka kicks up more chemistry in a few scenes with the animated Vader-in-waiting than the real-life Natalie Portman could muster over three whole films.

To be fair, there's nothing overt about "The Clone Wars" to indicate a relationship between Ahsoka and Anakin. But whether the filmmakers intended it or not, their mutual magnetism is a presence we haven't felt since ... well, at least going back to the push-pull of Harrison Ford and Carrie Fisher.

But if you thought a smuggler hooking up with a princess was inappropriate, then there's a reason to have a bad feeling about this:

For starters, when Anakin meets Ahsoka, she's barely a teenager, while he's in his early 20s. What's more, he's supposed to be her teacher. And finally, he's already secretly married to Portman's character, the aristocratic and wooden Queen Amidala.

Ahsoka first arrives in "Star Wars: The Clone Wars" in the midst of battle, announcing as she sashays down the ramp of her arriving space transport that she's to begin immediately training as Anakin's padawan. He protests at first, but orders—especially ones from Yoda—are orders.

Their clashing headstrong personalities generate immediate sparks. He's averse to the burden of an apprentice; she's eager to prove not only that she's worthy, but of immediate use against the hostile army that's bearing down.

From there, she exhibits enough battle pluck and witty repartee to win over her brooding mentor—he warms quickly to the idea of having a young assistant (who Mark Rahner of the Seattle Times describes as "a tiny girl with huge eyes and a tube-top who looks like a slutty Disney character." Fair enough).

It's not long before they give each other cute, jab-in-the-ribs nicknames—he's "Sky Guy," she's "Snips" (apparently for her snippy demeanor). They spend most of the film tot-ing around a rescued infant, making veiled parenting jokes along the way. Their petty competitions devolve into mutual concern, rescue and more post-traumatic bonding.

AP

In this image released by Warner Bros. & Lucasfilm Ltd., Jedi Knight Anakin Skywalker is shown with padawan learner, Ahsoka Tano, in a scene from "Star Wars: The Clone Wars."

Trace arsenic in water may be linked with diabetes

By CARLA K. JOHNSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

CHICAGO (AP)—A new analysis of government data is the first to link low-level arsenic exposure, possibly from drinking water, with Type 2 diabetes, researchers say. The study's limitations make more research necessary. And public water systems were on their way to meeting tougher U.S. arsenic standards as the data were collected.

Still, the analysis of 788 adults' medical tests found a nearly fourfold increase in the risk of diabetes in people with low arsenic concentrations in their urine compared to people with even lower levels.

Previous research outside the United States has linked high levels of arsenic in drinking water with diabetes. It's the link at low levels that's new. The findings appear in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association.

"The good news is, this is preventable," said lead author Dr. Ana Navas-Acien of Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore.

New safe drinking water standards may be needed if the findings are duplicated in future studies, Navas-Acien said. She said they've begun a new study of 4,000 people.

Arsenic can get into drinking water naturally when minerals dissolve. It is also an industrial pollutant from coal burning and copper smelting. Utilities use filtration systems to get it out of drinking water.

Seafood also contains nontoxic organic arsenic. The researchers adjusted their analysis for signs of seafood intake and found that people with Type 2 diabetes had 26 percent higher inorganic arsenic levels than people without Type 2 diabetes.

How arsenic could contribute to diabetes is unknown, but prior studies have found impaired insulin secretion in pancreas cells treated with an arsenic compound.

Cervical cancer shots less cost-effective with age

ATLANTA (AP)—An expensive vaccine aimed at preventing cervical cancer makes sense for young teens when it comes to cost-effectiveness, but not for women in their 20s, contends a new report.

The vaccine against the HPV virus was licensed in 2006 for use in girls and women ages 9 to 26. Health officials recommend it for girls at age 11 or 12, and some doctors offer it to women in their 20s in "catch-up" vaccination campaigns.

The maker of the Gardasil vaccine, Merck & Co., also wants to market it to women ages 27 to 45, but so far the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has denied that request.

The government-funded study found the HPV vaccine is very cost-effective when given to girls at age 12, but raises questions about the value of pushing for vaccinating adults.

Two researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health did the study, one of the most sophisticated analyses of the issue so far. Results are in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine

Gardasil is given in three doses over six months and costs about $375. It targets the two types of HPV, or human papillomavirus, believed to be responsible for about 70 percent of cervical cancer cases, and two other types that cause most genital warts. The virus spreads through sex.

Health officials say it's best to give the shots to girls at age 11 or 12, before they begin having sex. Some parents think that age is too young for a vaccination campaign against a sexually transmitted disease. But that is when the shots make the most economic sense, the researchers found.

Sheryl Crow offers free music to voters

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sheryl Crow is giving away free music—a tactic she calls the "Tupperware" party approach to inspiring young people to vote.

The Grammy Award-winning singer announced a plan Wednesday to give a digital copy of her album "Detours" to the first 50,000 people who register three friends to vote.

"I hope people wake up and emotionally engage in issues," Crow told The Associated Press in a telephone interview during a visit to Los Angeles.

Crow's giveaway is a kickoff to Rock the Vote's voter registration drive. She is also offering a free download of her politically charged song "Gasoline" to anyone who logs onto the Rock the Vote Web site or anyone on the group's mailing list, said the organization's executive director Heather Smith.

Crow, 46, was one of the founding artists of Rock the Vote 18 years ago. She said the "Detours" album fits perfectly into the group's cause since the lyrics touch on topics such as adoption, breast cancer, the war in Iraq, the environment and Hurricane Katrina. "It's about the issues that everyone's talking about, but there's a lot of hope," Crow said. "At this moment in my life, writing about anything else would be uninteresting and impossible because I feel such urgency." Crow, who has advocated for environmental, health and humanitarian causes, said her fans know where she stands politically. But in this voter registration campaign she's concerned only for the future of her 1-year-old son, Wyatt, and the future of American democracy.

Crow suggested that more musicians should use their music to promote issues that affect Americans. She said she was inspired by pop musicians from the 1960s and 70s, when political songs were performed by Edwin Starr, Buffalo Springfield, Marvin Gaye and Peter Paul & Mary.

"There was healthy competition among artists to create art that was commercial and political at the same time," Crow said. "Our music (now) is not representing the times—at least not socially and politically. Or maybe we're just distracted."

Rock the Vote aims to register 2 million young people to vote by November—the largest youth voter drive in history by three times, Smith said.

"These musicians speak to millions of people every day so for them to use their voices to inspire people is a key part of our program," she said.

Anyone who recruits three people to vote will have to log onto the Rock the Vote Web site and go through a verification process before receiving Crow's album, Smith said.

AP

Sheryl Crow performs at the Mann Center for the Performing Arts, in this August 2, 2008 file photo, in Philadelphia.

UN-backed film to premiere at Rome film fest

ROME (AP)—A U.N.-backed movie on poverty made of eight segments by directors including Jane Campion and Wim Wenders will make its world premiere at the Rome Film Festival later this year, organizers said Wednesday.

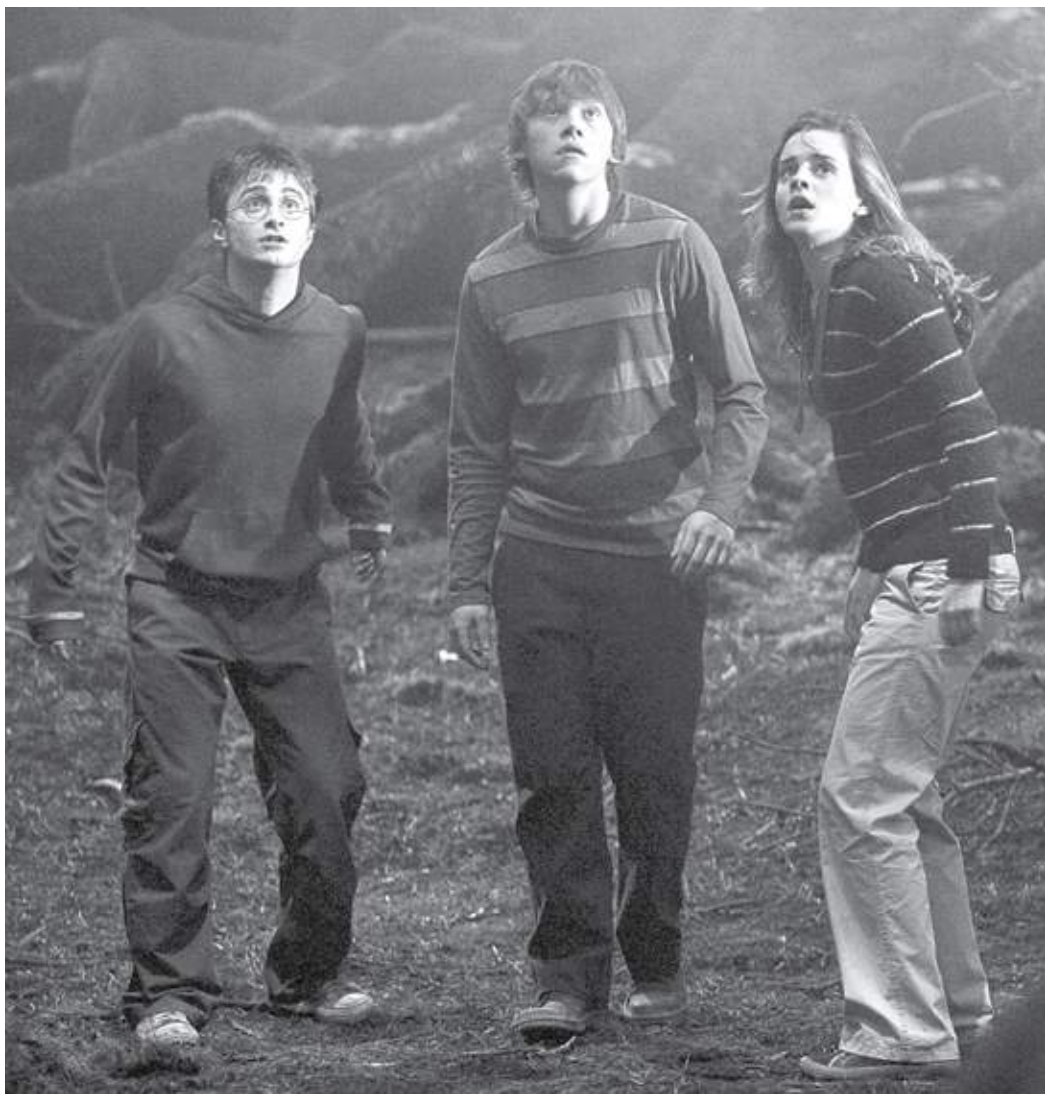
Titled "8," the movie aims to raise awareness of world poverty. Gael Garcia Bernal, Gus Van Sant, Mira Nair, Jan Kounen, Abderrahmane Sissako and Gaspar Noe are also among the movie's directors.

The festival's third edition, running Oct. 22-31, will present Saul Dibb's historical pageant "The Duchess," starring Ralph Fiennes and Keira Knightley as the spirited and unconventional Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, an 18th century ancestor of Princess Diana.

A French-Cambodian film, "The Sea Wall," a screen adaptation of a Marguerite Duras novel starring Isabelle Huppert, will also screen at the festival.

Al Pacino is expected to be at the event to receive an acting award and take part in public meetings and conferences, organizers said.

The complete lineup of the festival has not yet been announced.



AP

In this image originally released by Warner Bros., Daniel Radcliff, portraying Harry Potter, left, Rupert Grint, portraying Ron Weasley, center, and Emma Watson as Hermione Granger are shown in a scene from the film, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix."

Harry Potter fans are angry

By GEOFF BOUCHER
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Call it "Harry Potter and the Revolt of the Muggles."

A day after Warner Bros. announced that it would be pulling the sixth "Potter" film off its November release schedule and instead releasing it next July to take advantage of skimpy competition in the summer, fans of the popular franchise were lighting up the Internet with their rage Friday. Thousands signed online petitions, others organized boycotts and protests and a vast number expressed their reaction with tears or clenched fists.

At Petitionspot.com, more than 12,000 fans had signed a demand that "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," in postproduction in London, be returned to the long-promoted November date. Their posted comments made clear that Warner Bros. Chairman Alan Horn had, for a day at least, replaced Voldemort as the main villain in the hearts of "Potter" fans.

"They are doing this for no other reason than to make more money," 25-year-old Brooklyn resident Patrick Allen wrote in an e-mail to the Los Angeles Times. "This is ridiculous and I assure you that the millions of Harry Potter fans who have been looking forward to this release will not stand for it."

By court order, 'Doors' can't tour

By GEOFF BOUCHER
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

In a victory for the estate of the late Jim Morrison, the California Supreme Court has slammed the Doors shut.

The court denied a petition by two of the surviving members of the Doors, keyboardist Ray Manzarek and guitarist Robby Krieger, to review a lower court's decision that blocked them from touring under the name of the band that rose to fame on the Sunset Strip in the 1960s and recorded dark hits such as "Light My Fire," "L.A. Woman" and "Riders on the Storm."

Manzarek and Krieger had toured with other musicians under the name The Doors of the 21st Century and advertised their shows with images of Morrison, the decadent rock icon who died in 1971. The use of the name led to joint legal action by the Morrison family, the family of Pamela Courson (Morrison's common-law wife, who died in 1974) and the third surviving Doors member, drummer John Densmore.

The unified front of Manzarek and Krieger has fought other battles with Densmore, especially over the use of Doors songs in television commercials. Corporations routinely pay millions of dollars to use signature classic-rock hits in commercials, but Densmore, citing the wishes of his old friend Morrison, has vetoed the idea of "renting out" Doors songs, even for eight-digit paydays.

That veto power dates back to the 1960s, when the four members of the Doors agreed that business deals required unanimity in their ranks. The band broke up not long after Morrison's death, and today their still-lucrative music and licensing interests are controlled by a four-way partnership: the three surviving band members and a final vote shared by the Morrison and Courson families.

That struggle over commercials had Densmore on his own, but when Manzarek and Krieger toured with the old hits and a new version of the Doors name, the Morrison and Courson families joined the drummer in protest. The families and Densmore argued also that the profits of that tour should have been shared with the Doors partnership.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Gregory W. Alarcon ruled in July 2005 that Manzarek and Krieger could not use the Doors name without written consent from the partnership. The defendants' appeal ended when the California Supreme Court denied the petition.

Densmore said Tuesday that he was deeply relieved: "A five-year cloud has passed over my head."

Academy to honor Shirley Temple

By SUSAN KING
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—Shirley Temple is probably the most popular child star in cinema history. During the 1930s, the golden-haired mop top sang and danced the Depression blues away in a series of musicals. She even won a special juvenile Oscar in 1935 in "grateful recognition of her outstanding contribution of screen entertainment during the year 1934." Temple, who would later become the U.S. ambassador to Czechoslovakia, celebrates her 80th birthday this year. The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences celebrates the event Friday evening at the Samuel Goldwyn Theater with newly restored prints of her 1937 drama "Wee Willie Winkie," based on the Rudyard Kipling story and directed by John Ford, and the 1938 musical "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm," with Randolph Scott and Gloria Stuart of "Titanic" fame.

On Wednesday, the academy celebrates the centennial of fantasy film director, producer and animator George Pal with a screening of a newly restored print of his 1953 classic production "War of the Worlds" and a discussion hosted by director Joe Dante with several actors and technicians who worked with Pal, including Alan Young, Ann Robinson, Barbara Eden and Russ Tamblyn

Title, print run on Woodward book announced

NEW YORK (AP)—The suspense didn't quite compare to the identity of "Deep Throat," but we now know the name of Bob Woodward's fourth investigative work on the Bush administration, just three weeks before the book's release.

Woodward

"The War Within: A Secret White House History 2006-2008" will be published Sept. 8 by Simon & Schuster with an announced first printing of 900,000 copies. Simon & Schuster is keeping the book under strict embargo—although such embargoes are often broken—and had even held back the title.

"There has not been such an authoritative and intimate account of presidential decision making since the Nixon tapes and the Pentagon Papers," Woodward's longtime editor, Alice Mayhew, said Tuesday in a statement. "This is the declassification of what went on in secret, behind the scenes

According to Simon & Schuster, Woodward's book "takes readers deep inside the White House, the Pentagon, the State Department, the intelligence agencies and the U.S. military headquarters in Iraq

"Based on extensive interviews with participants, contemporaneous notes and secret documents, the book traces the internal debates, tensions and critical turning points in the Iraq War during an extraordinary two-year period." The Washington Post, where Woodward currently serves as an associate editor, will run excerpts on Sept. 7. That night, Woodward will be interviewed on CBS television's "60 Minutes." (Both CBS and Simon & Schuster are owned by Viacom, Inc.)

Woodward's three previous works on the Bush years have been No. 1 best sellers on The New York Times hardcover nonfiction list and their tone, like the president's approval ratings, has evolved from the essentially positive take of the first book, "Bush at War," to the far more critical "State of Denial," which came out in 2006.

Woodward's literary representative, Washington attorney Robert Barnett, declined comment when asked whether President Bush, who spoke with Woodward for the first two volumes, had been interviewed for the current book. According to Barnett, Woodward only finished "The War Within" three weeks ago.

Woodward is also known for his Pulitzer Prize-winning reporting with fellow Washington Post writer Carl Bernstein. In the 1970s, they collaborated on the groundbreaking stories of the Watergate scandal that helped bring down President Nixon and on two best sellers about the Nixon administration, "All the President's Men" and "The Final Days."

No critical sneak peeks for '90210,' network says

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The drama has already begun with "90210," which is giving TV critics the brushoff.

Pre-broadcast copies of the new CW series won't be distributed to TV reviewers and reporters, the network said Monday.

Movie critics tend to get suspicious when a new release skips review screenings, but CW said the move merely represents a "strategic marketing decision" by it and studio partner CBS Paramount Network Television.

"We're not hiding anything" by declining to make the Sept. 2 debut episode of the "Beverly Hills 90210" spinoff available beforehand, according to a network statement.

Instead, CW said, it's "simply keeping a lid on `90210' ... riding the curiosity and anticipation into premiere night, and letting all our constituents see it at the same time."

Distribution of most new fall show pilots has lagged because of the 100-day Hollywood writers' strike that ended in February and disrupted TV's usual production schedule for the 2008-09 season as well as the previous one.

But it's unusual for TV networks to withhold pilots for other reasons.

CW's drama about two high schoolers from the Midwest who move to California and enroll in West Beverly Hills High School echoes the hit 1990s Fox drama whose cast included Shannen Doherty and Jennie Garth.

AP

In this image released by The CW network, the cast from"90210", front row from left, Ryan Eggold as Ryan, Jessica Stroup as Silver, Michael Steger as Navid; middle row from left, Jessica Walter as Tabitha, Tristan Wilds as Dixon, AnnaLynne McCord as Naomi; and back row from left, Rob Estes as Harry, Lori Loughlin as Debbie, Shenae Grimes as Annie and Dustin Milligan as Ethan, are shown.

Doherty and Garth are among original cast members set to appear on the new series.

Owner of car in accident with LaBeouf cited

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A citation has been issued to the owner of a car that crashed into a pickup truck driven by Shia LaBeouf. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department spokesman Steve Whitmore on Wednesday said 21-year-old Simon Herbert of Los Angeles was given a citation after the car failed to stop at a red light.

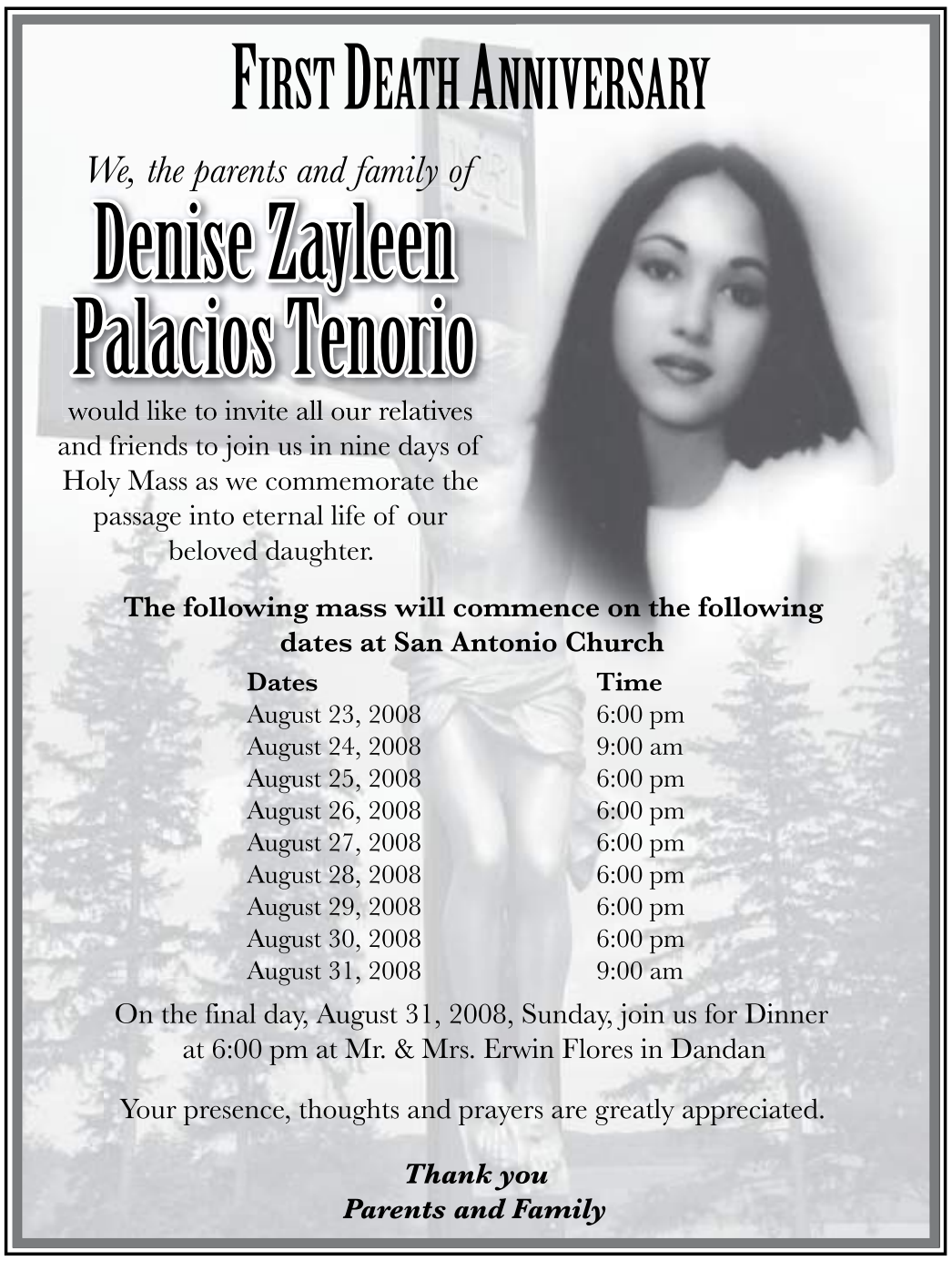
Whitmore says deputies are still trying to determine if Herbert was driving his car at the time of the July 27 accident.

Attempts to find a telephone listing for Herbert were not immediately successful.

The 22-year-old LaBeouf's hand was crushed when his truck flipped in the West Hollywood collision. The actor, who has been filming the "Transformers" sequel, spent several days in a hospital.

Herbert's citation was issued Friday.

Emery Satauo Ham
Born to life on April 26, 1974.
Called to eternal rest on
August 18, 2008 at the age of 34.
Predeceased By:
Mother In-Law: Andresina Dela Cruz Aldan
Survived By:
Husband: Billy Joe (BJ) Aldan Songao
Children: Andresina Ham Songao & Emjoe Ham Songao
Father: Satauo Ham
Mother: Eva Ham
Sister/Brother & In-Laws: Sita H/ Herinson Paulus (Sifson); Cathy H/ Tino Norech (Jayleen, TN, Catleen, ENTY); Efcy H/ Harvey Matagolai (Ferlisa, Harvey Simeon, Efcy Ruth); Kenta Ham; Evelin Ham; Sue Ham; Aliwy Ham; Wewant Ham
Father & Mother In-Law: Ignacio & Ramona Songao
Brother/Sisters & In-Laws: Richard & Virginia Songao; Freddy Songao; Chris & Kate Songao; Geraldine Songao; Ken & Trace Songao; Esper Songao; Ignacio & Clarissa Dela Cruz; Elenor Dela Cruz & Michael Naputi; Jessica & Fred Lizama; Elsie Songao; Irvin & Antonia Songao; Jason & Kristie Songao
Viewing will be at Cabrera's Funeral Home, Saturday Aug. 23, 2008, at 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Her remains will be flown to Chuuk on Tuesday Aug. 26, 2008. Burial at her home in Eot Chuuk.
We extend our sincerest humble gratitude to you all for your prayers and love.
Thank you to the staff and doctors at the I.C.U. unit for your services. Ms. Bernie Rabauliman who led the rosary prayers. Si Yu'us Ma'ase / Kinisou Chapur
Billy Joe & Children, Eva, Satauo Ham, Ike and Mona Songao & Family


First Death Anniversary
We, the parents and family of
Denise Zayleen Palacios Tenorio
would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us in nine days of Holy Mass as we commemorate the passage into eternal life of our beloved daughter.
The following mass will commence on the following dates at San Antonio Church
Dates Time
August 23, 2008 6:00 pm
August 24, 2008 9:00 am
August 25, 2008 6:00 pm
August 26, 2008 6:00 pm
August 27, 2008 6:00 pm
August 28, 2008 6:00 pm
August 29, 2008 6:00 pm
August 30, 2008 6:00 pm
August 31, 2008 9:00 am
On the final day, August 31, 2008, Sunday, join us for Dinner at 6:00 pm at Mr. & Mrs. Erwin Flores in Dandan
Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.
Thank you
Parents and Family

Meet the new teams on 'The Amazing Race'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An ex-NFL player and his estranged wife, a former Dallas Cowboys cheerleader and her actor brother, recent divorcees, a pair of Southern belles and fraternity brothers are among the 11 two-person teams hurrying for the finish line—and the $1 million grand prize—on the upcoming 13th edition of CBS' "The Amazing Race

"I love the fraternity brothers because they're so young and such a contrasting team," host Phil Keoghan recently told The Associated Press. "One takes his time to think things out. The other one loves to rush and go at a million miles an hour. There's definitely tension between the two of them while they're making decisions during the race." Another team competing is geeky best friends Mark Yturralde, 41, and Bill Hahler, 42. The Comic-Con treasurer and student aid administrator from San Diego have been pals for over 20 years and have auditioned for "The Amazing Race" since the long-running reality series' third season. The superhero and gaming aficionados said they left their toys at home during the race

"We've got really teeny backpacks," said Hahler. "They are small. We wanted to make sure that there wasn't anything to prevent us from putting that pack underneath the seat in front of us when we got on a plane. We didn't want something to happen where we got delayed because of our luggage. We thought that would help us go faster."

"We did extensive research on what to wear—what was lightweight and would help us move the fastest," added Yturralde. "I think it was the longest I ever went without wearing a logo on my T-shirt. If you see me on the street, I'm usually wearing a Superman, Bizarro or Batman T-shirt on a constant basis, but we had to utilize more multi-use clothing for 'The Amazing Race.'"Married beekeepers Anita, 63, and Arthur Jones, 61, from Eugene, Ore., are the oldest—and perhaps most colorful—team on this season of "The Amazing Race." Among the self-described hippies' mottos: "Don't worry, be hippie" and "The hokey pokey is what it's all about." Before the race, the Joneses worked out in hopes of keeping up with the other teams.

"We both tried to do some training, along the lines of going down to our little gym, but that was pretty much it," said Anita. "We have an emerging farm, so we do a lot of work out there, splitting wood and taking care of the horses. We're pretty physical, so we thought, 'Hey, we can be in there with everybody else. It'll be fun.'"

Ken Greene, a former St. Louis Cardinals and San Diego Chargers defensive back, now 51, will race with estranged wife Tina.

Starting at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, the 13th season of the Emmy-winning reality competition (premiering Sept. 28 at 8 p.m. EDT) will follow the teams as they travel over 30,000 miles in 23 days to countries such as Brazil, Bolivia, Russia, India and Kazakhstan. It's the first time the series visited the landlocked country lampooned by Sacha Baron Cohen in "Borat."

"We shot most of that episode in the capital," said executive producer Bertram van Munster. "People were a little afraid we were going to pull a 'Borat' on them. I told them we weren't doing 'Borat,' but what happened there is very, very funny. It's not easy to shoot in places like that because they practically have no television industry."

Van Munster, who is currently scouting locations in Asia for the 14th season, promised the 13th season will include a series of firsts for the reality competition, including a mistake that ultimately prohibited one team from joining their fellow racers at the finish line, as well as a memorable first-ever stop for "The Amazing Race" in Cambodia.

"The teams have no idea how to get from Point A to Point B there," said van Munster. "They don't know the language. It's very difficult to get through this country. They get so stuck, but they find so many fascinating solutions of how to get through everything. One of the things the teams do there is go to a real-life floating village. It's insane."

Viewers shouldn't expect to witness the around-the-world shenanigans in high definition, according to van Munster. While the upcoming Gabon-set season of CBS' "Survivor" will be broadcast in HD for the first time, "The Amazing Race" co-creator said the network hasn't decided on a similar stance for the often on-the-bubble show.

"I don't think it's a priority," van Munster said. "We're just happy to continue making the show as it is."

AP

In this image released by CBS, the 11 teams competing in the 13th edition of "The Amazing Race," are shown. The program premieres, Sunday, Sept. 28 at 8:00 p.m. on CBS.

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don't just go to the movies, GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Price Costco in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000

POWER 99 FM SAIPAN, CNMI

$5.00 Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
$5.00 All Day Admission For Seniors
$4.00 All Day Admission For Kids
$5.00 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
$5.00 Military with Valid I.D.

THRIFTY TUESDAYS $5 ADMISSION ALL DAY TUESDAYS FOR FILMS WITH A (T)

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com

dts DOLBY DIGITAL STADIUM SEATING WITH HIGH-BACK LOVESEATS

For Friday, August 22 through Thursday, August 28 only!

★ ★ ★ NOW SHOWING ★ ★ ★

Death Race

Friday		4:30	7:20	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:20	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:20	

Jason Statham, Tyrese Gibson
Action, Thriller • Rated R

Synopsis
Terminal Island, New York: 2020. Overcrowding in the U.S. penal system has reached a breaking point. Prisons have been turned over to a monolithic Weyland Corporation, which sees jails full of thugs as an opportunity for televised sport. Adrenalized inmates, a global audience hungry for violence and a spectacular, enclosed arena come together to form the 'Death Race', the world's biggest, most brutal sporting event. Five-time NASCAR champion Jensen Ames is a man who has become an expert at survival.

★ ★ ★

Star Wars: The Clone Wars

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:35
Saturday	1:15	4:05	7:10	9:35
Sunday	1:15	4:05	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:10	

Christopher Lee, Anthony Daniels
Sci-Fi, Fantasy, Animated • Rated PG

Synopsis
As the Clone Wars sweep through the galaxy, the heroic Jedi Knights struggle to maintain order and restore peace. More and more systems are falling prey to the forces of the dark side as the Galactic Republic slips further and further under the sway of the Separatists and their never-ending droid army. Anakin Skywalker and his Padawan learner Ahsoka Tano find themselves on a mission with far-reaching consequences, one that brings them face-to-face with crime lord Jabba the Hutt.

Tropic Thunder

Friday		4:20	7:15	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:20	7:15	9:50
Sunday	1:10	4:20	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:15	

Ben Stiller, Jack Black
Comedy • Rated R

Mirrors

Friday		4:25	7:30	9:45
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:30	9:45
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:30	

Kiefer Sutherland, Paula Patton
Thriller, Horror • Rated R

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor

Friday		4:15	7:05	9:30
Saturday	1:05	4:15	7:05	9:30
Sunday	1:05	4:15	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:05	

Brendan Fraser, Jet Li
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Pineapple Express

Friday		@	7:25	9:40
Saturday	@	@	7:25	9:40
Sunday	@	@	7:25	9:40
Mon thru Thurs		@	7:25	

James Franco, Seth Rogen
Action, Comedy, Thriller • Rated R

Dark Knight

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Christian Bale, Heath Ledger
Superhero Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Mamma Mia

Friday		4:10	@	@
Saturday	1:20	4:10	@	@
Sunday	1:20	4:10	@	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	@	

Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan
Comedy, Musical Romance • Rated PG 13

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

www.gohollywood.com

Jessica Simpson to market beer for Dallas brewer

DALLAS (AP)—Jessica Simpson is now selling beer. The singer and actress has signed on as spokeswoman for Stampede Light Plus, made by Dallas' Stampede Brewing Co.

Simpson will appear in ads in stores for the beer and is taking a 15 percent stake in the brewer. The Dallas Morning News says terms were not disclosed.

Lawrence Schwartz, Stampede's president and chief executive, says Simpson is the now face of the brand.

Simpson said in a statement that as an entrepreneur she's "always looking for ways to diversify my portfolio with good ideas and good people."

Stampede Light bills itself as a beer for active people.

AP

In this June 5, 2008 file photo, actress and singer Jessica Simpson is shown at the CMA Music Festival in Nashville, Tenn.

Jonas Brothers notch third-biggest debut of 2008

NEW YORK (AP)—Not only have the Jonas Brothers notched the year's third-biggest debut album, they've managed the rare feat of having two albums in the top 10 at the same time. "A Little Bit Longer," the third album from the trio of siblings, sold more than 525,000 copies to debut at No. 1 on the Billboard Top 200 album charts, according to figures released by Nielsen SoundScan on Wednesday.

Only Lil Wayne (whose "Tha Carter III" sold a little more than 1 million in its first week) and Coldplay's "Viva La Vida" (which topped the chart with 720,000 its first week) have had better debuts this year.

With all the hoopla surrounding the release of their latest album, the Jonas Brothers' self-titled second album, released last year, also vaulted into the top 10; in addition, they are featured on the "Camp Rock" soundtrack, which is at No. 8.

According to Billboard.com, the last group to have two albums in the top 10 was another teen sensation, 'N Sync, back in 1999.

The Jonas Brothers—Kevin, 20; Joe, 18; Nick, 15—have become one of pop's biggest sensations over the past year, and "A Little Bit Longer" represents their biggest success yet. The group, now on tour, were recently featured on the cover of Rolling Stone magazine and are among the performers confirmed for MTV Video Music Awards on Sept. 7 in Los Angeles.

AP

In this Aug. 11, 2008 file photo, The Jonas Brothers, from left, Nick, Joe and Kevin pose backstage after co-hosting MTV's "Total Request Live" in New York.

Jill Jackson's HOLLYWOOD

By JILL JACKSON
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

It's all Emmy talk now in Tinseltown, and interesting to know how some of the nominees found out the good news. Glenn Close was driving her doggies around when she heard on the car radio that she had been nominated for "Damages." Kyra Sedgewick was awakened by friends. Friends also woke Christina Applegate at 5 a.m. to tell her she had been nominated for "Samantha Who?" and that night she went out to dinner with a pack of them to celebrate. Note that all five nominees in the best dramatic actress category are over 35. ... Ted Danson was asleep, but wife Mary Steenbergen was awake and waiting, hoping she could hear some good news about a nod for Ted in "Damages." Sure nuff, it came, and she had to awaken him to tell him. ... Jean Smart was out of town in a hotel room. She had her cell phone by the bed. She let it ring and ring, wishing she had put it on vibrate, and then she remembered about the Emmy nominations, answered it and learned she had been tapped for her supporting role in "Samantha Who?" In September, we'll learn the winners when the little lady is handed out.

Will Ferrell

On the feature-film front, Will Ferrell's next sounds interesting. Titled "2-Face," it's a comedy about a character with a split personality. One personality is a racist, and the other is a bleeding-heart liberal. Ferrell has been front and center quite a bit lately. His full name is John William Ferrell, and besides being a fine actor, he also is a top athlete. The 6-foot-3-inch Ferrell was captain of his high-school basketball team, and also played football and soccer. After graduating from USC, his first professional job was as a sportscaster.

It's an entirely new Cher appearing at Caesar's Palace in Vegas. A completely done over face (rumor has it costing $500,000) and long long, blond blond hair. And just in case you don't know, her full name is Cherilyn Sarkisian La Piere. ... On the subject of hair, little Rosie Perez recently appeared on "The Late Show" with bangs so long she had to peep out from under. I kept wanting to brush them out of the way so she could see.

Sherwood Schwartz created and produced "Gilligan's Island" and "The Brady Bunch," plus numerous other shows. Now his son Ross Schwartz has a film floating round titled "Bottle Shock." It's set in the Napa Valley—the beautiful California wine country—and is about the making of fine wines. I'm told it's a comedy loaded with laughs. Bill Pullman and Alan Rickman head the cast.

How could I have failed to mention Gene Kelly singing and dancing on the sidewalk in the rain in "Singing in the Rain" in my list of Most Memorable Movie Moments. I could watch it and watch it AND WATCH IT! Thank heaven we're seeing it often in reruns.

■ ■ ■

BITS 'N' PIECES: Word is that Angelina is having a tough time with all her other kids clamoring for affection while she tends the new twins, Knox and Vivienne. ... Hang around Nate 'n' Al's Deli in Beverly Hills and you're sure to see Larry King either coming or going. He literally makes it his office. ... Ellen and Portia are readying for the wedding. ..... Tobey is riding round on his bicycle off-screen. Of course, you know when he is on, he's climbing walls. ... Reese Witherspoon spending time in Paris taking in the fashion shows. ... And that's it for now in Tinseltown 2008.

CELEBRITY EXTRA

By CINDY ELAVSKY
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

■ ■ ■

Q: One of my favorite shows of this past television season was "Cane," starring Jimmy Smits. He was so good in it. I can't believe it was canceled. Does he have anything new in the works? It was nice to see him back on a weekly series. —Christian K., via e-mail

A: You can catch Jimmy this fall in Showtime's hit drama "Dexter." He will play Miguel Prado, the ambitious and tough-on-crime assistant district attorney. He won't be straying too far from his "Cane" stomping grounds, as "Dexter" also takes place in Miami. Jimmy will debut on the season opener, which will air Sept. 28, and is signed on for 10 of the 12 episodes. And, for all you "Dexter" fans out there, Season 2 should be out on DVD by the time you read this.

■ ■ ■

Q: I am an avid fan of David Boreanaz from "Bones" and "Angel." Sometimes on "Bones" I can see a glimpse of a tattoo on his wrists. What is it of? -- Debra, via e-mail

A: David and his wife, Jamie Bergman, have matching tattoos on the inside of each of their wrists. They are Kanji symbols, one meaning "soul" and the other "destiny/fate" They say that when they hold hands, their souls and their destinies are joined together.

■ ■ ■

Q: I have wondered for years what happened to a very popular actress who left the movie industry to become a Catholic nun. I believe she was engaged to Fred McMurray.—Lorraine A., via e-mail

A: The actress in question is the beautiful June Haver. 20th Century Fox hired her in 1943, and the following year she starred with Fred McMurray in "Home in Indiana." However, in 1952, following a divorce and the death of her fiance, June converted to Roman Catholicism and announced that she was going to become a nun. It it's not known if she entered a convent briefly in 1953, or if she decided not to go through with it.

David Boreanaz

She became reacquainted with Fred later that year, and the couple married in 1954. By the end of the '50s, June retired from acting. She remained married to Fred until his death in 1991. In 2001, she earned a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. June died of respiratory failure at the age of 79 on July 4, 2005.

■ ■ ■

Q: Whatever happened to Peter Strauss? He was one of my very favorite actors, but it has been ages since I've seen him in anything.—Judy L., Vandalia, Ohio

A: Peter, 61, has had several guest-starring and co-starring roles, including a role in the Robin Williams' movie "License to Wed" and the hit ABC drama "Dirty Sexy Money." He is the announcer for comedian Tracey Ullman's latest project, "State of the Union."

Have a question for Cindy? E-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com, or write to her in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 POP SINGLES

This Week Last Week

1. Katy Perry No. 1 "I Kissed a Girl" (Capitol)
2. Chris Brown No. 3 "Forever" (Jive)
3. Rihanna No. 4 "Disturbia" (SRP/Def Jam)
4. Rihanna No. 2 "Take a Bow" (SRP/Def Jam)
5. Coldplay No. 5 "Viva La Vida" (Capitol)
6. Lil Wayne No. 6 "A Milli" (Cash Money)
7. Kardinal Offishall feat. Akon No. 8 "Dangerous" (KonLive/Geffen)
8. Jonas Brothers new entry "Tonight" (Hollywood)
9. The Pussycat Dolls No. 12 "When I Grow Up" (Interscope)
10. Ne-Yo No. 14 "Closer" (Def Jam)

TOP 10 ALBUMS

1. Sugarland No. 2 "Love on the Inside: Deluxe Fan Edition" (Mercury Nashville)
2. Miley Cyrus No. 1 "Breakout" (Hollywood)
3. Soundtrack No. 3 "Mamma Mia!" (Decca)
4. Kid Rock No. 4 "Rock N Roll Jesus" (Top Dog/Atlantic)
5. Lil Wayne No. 5 "Tha Carter III" (Cash Money/Universal Motown)
6. Third Day new entry "Revelation" (Essential)
7. Coldplay No. 6 "Viva La Vida or Death and All His Friends" (Capitol)
8. Kidz Bop Kids new entry "Kidz Bop 14" (Razor & Tie)
9. Soundtrack No. 7 "Camp Rock" (Walt Disney)
10. Nas No. 8 "Untitled" (Def Jam/Columbia)

TOP 10 HOT COUNTRY SINGLES

1. Sugarland No. 2 "All I Want To Do" (Mercury)
2. Keith Urban No. 3 "You Look Good In My Shirt" (Capitol Nashville)
3. Alan Jackson No. 1 "Good Time" (Arista Nashville)
4. Brooks & Dunn No. 5 "Put a Girl In It" (Arista Nashville)
5. Taylor Swift No. 4 "Should've Said No" (Big Machine)
6. Keith Anderson No. 6 "I Still Miss You" (Columbia)
7. Miranda Lambert No. 8 "Gunpowder & Lead" (Columbia)
8. Jimmy Wayne No. 9 "Do You Believe Me Now" (Valory)
9. Blake Shelton No. 7 "Home" (Warner Bros.)
10. Brad Paisley No. 11 "Waitin' On a Woman" (Arista Nashville)

TOP TEN MOVIES

1. The Dark Knight (PG-13) Christian Bale, Heath Ledger
2. Pineapple Express (R) Seth Rogen, James Franco
3. The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (PG-13) Brendan Fraser, Jet Li
4. The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2 (PG-13) Amber Tamblyn, Alexis Bledel
5. Step Brothers (R) Will Ferrell, John C. Reilly
6. Mamma Mia! (PG-13) Amanda Seyfried, Stellan Skarsgard
7. Journey to the Center of the Earth (PG) Brendan Fraser, Josh Hutcherson
8. Hancock (PG-13) Will Smith, Charlize Theron
9. Swing Vote (PG-13) Kevin Costner, Madeline Carroll
10. WALL-E (G) animated

TOP 10 VIDEO RENTALS

1. 21 (PG-13) Jim Sturgess (Sony Pictures)
2. The Bank Job (R) Jason Statham (Lionsgate)
3. Vantage Point (PG-13) Dennis Quaid (Sony Pictures)
4. College Road Trip (G) Martin Lawrence (Disney)
5. Step Up 2: The Streets (PG-13) Briana Evigan (Disney/Touchstone)
6. Drillbit Taylor (PG-13) Owen Wilson (Paramount)
7. Shutter (PG-13) Joshua Jackson (Fox)
8. 10,000 BC (PG-13) Steven Strait (Warner)
9. Stop-Loss (R) Ryan Phillippe (Paramount)
10. The Ruins (R) Jonathan Tucker (Paramount/DreamWorks)

TOP 10 DVD SALES

1. 21 (PG-13) (Sony Pictures)
2. Step Up 2: The Streets (PG-13) (Touchstone)
3. Batman Begins (PG-13) (Warner)
4. College Road Trip (G) (Walt Disney)
5. The Bank Job (R) (Lionsgate)
6. Robot Chicken: Star Wars (NR) (Adult Swim)
7. 10,000 BC (PG-13) (Warner)
8. The Bucket List (PG-13) (Warner)
9. The Spiderwick Chronicles (PG) (Nickelodeon Video)
10. Vantage Point (PG-13) (Sony Pictures)

(c) 2008 King Features Synd., Inc.

Life has gone to the dogs for wife in supporting role

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: "Ben" and I have been married for two years. His dog, "Lucky," adores him. The problem is, Lucky bites me every time I get near Ben, especially when we are trying to get intimate. If we lock Lucky out of the room, he barks frantically the whole time. So much for romance.

Ben refuses to get rid of Lucky. He has told me that if the dog goes, he goes—and he means it. I want a normal life with my husband, but he has chosen his dog over his wife. Can you offer any solution?

ONCE BITTEN, TWICE SHY IN OHIO

DEAR ONCE BITTEN: I'll try. Your husband is an irresponsible pet owner. He has allowed Lucky to become "top dog" in your household by permitting the animal to control HIM rather than vice versa.

Tell him that if he wants to "get lucky," he is going to have to assume control of his dog. This will take the assistance of a qualified dog trainer or other animal behavior specialist and should be done immediately because "once bitten" is once too often.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm 16, and my 13-year-old stepsister, "Cindy," is mentally retarded. She stays here every other weekend, and it's embarrassing when I have friends over. We don't have an extra room, so my mom and stepfather make me share a room with her.

Cindy is obsessed with me. She won't leave me alone the whole weekend and follows me around asking stupid questions. She also stares at my body when I get undressed, which makes me uncomfortable. I'm not modest and undress in front of other girls, but I don't like being stared at. She also can't keep her hands off my stuff.

I have been spending the night at a friend's as often as I can to get away from her. But now my mother and stepfather say I can go on sleepovers only on weekends Cindy is not here. They say she misses me and seems hurt that I'm not here to be with her. They say Cindy cried last weekend because she thinks I don't love her.

Well, duh! I've never even LIKED her. She is supposed to be here spending "quality time" with her father, not me, so shouldn't I be able to get away rather than have her drive me crazy the whole time?

FED UP IN LANCASTER, PA.

DEAR FED UP: You are obviously very angry, but you're aiming it in the wrong direction. None of this is your stepsister's fault. Cindy is a little girl mentally, and she idolizes you. She may be slow, but she isn't stupid. She recognizes rejection when she sees it.

I recommend a compromise. You should not have to entertain your stepsister every single time she visits. While it would be caring and compassionate to spend time with her, you should not be forced into it. Keeping her occupied should be your parents' responsibility.

An adult should advocate for you in this matter. If my reply is sufficient, show it to your mother and stepfather. If it isn't, then enlist the help of another adult to talk to them with you.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Singing is my one true passion. However, whenever I sing, my friends make fun of me. One of my friends did compliment me, but I'm not sure I completely believe her. My choir director says I have a beautiful voice, but how can I tell if she's just being nice?

UNSURE IN SPRINGFIELD, MO.

DEAR UNSURE: Ask her if you can sing a solo.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Matt Damon's wife Luciana gives birth to girl

AP

In this Aug. 21, 2007 file photo, Matt Damon, left, arrives with his wife Luciana Barroso at Potsdamer Platz square for the German premiere of his movie The Bourne Ultimatum in Berlin.

MIAMI (AP)—Matt Damon's wife Luciana gave birth to a baby girl Wednesday, his spokeswoman said. The baby's name is Gia Zavala Damon, spokeswoman Jennifer Allen told The Associated Press, adding: "Everyone is great and she is a healthy, beautiful baby girl." She wouldn't give any further details.

Damon, 37, met wife Luciana, 32, in 2003 while she was working as a bartender in Florida and he was filming "Stuck on You." They tied the knot in December 2005 in New York during a private ceremony attended by the bride's daughter, Alexa, now 10, from a previous marriage.

They later welcomed a daughter, Isabella, who was born in June 2006.

Next 'Bachelor' is 'Bachelorette' reject

LOS ANGELES (AP)—If the new man looking for love on ABC's "The Bachelor" looks familiar, that's because he was rejected last season on "The Bachelorette."

Jason Mesnick, whose proposal to DeAnna Pappas was spurned during the finale, will search for romance among 25 bachelorettes when the 13th season of the reality series returns in January.

ABC said Wednesday that the 32-year-old single father is looking for a woman who "has a real curiosity about the world, who loves life and can find passion in life's smallest moments." The network is casting for eligible women to vie for Mesnick's attention.

Mesnick lost out in May during the fourth-season "Bachelorette" season finale to professional snowboarder Jesse Csincsak, who's engaged to Pappas. She herself was rejected by previous "Bachelor" Brad Womack during the series' 11th season.

Ricky Martin a father of twin boys, publicist says

NEW YORK (AP)—There won't be much "livin' la vida loca" for Ricky Martin these days—he's now the father of twin boys. The Latin superstar had the children via a surrogate mother, and the babies were born a few weeks ago, according to a statement from his representatives.

"The children, delivered via gestational surrogacy, are healthy and already under Ricky's full-time care," said the statement. "Ricky is elated to begin this new chapter in his life as a parent and will be spending the remainder of the year out of the public spotlight in order to spend time with his children."

A representative said there was no further information on the details of the children's birth.

AP

In this May 17, 2008 file photo, Ricky Martin is shown at Latin America in Solidarity Action (ALAS) Foundation concert in Mexico City.

Martin, 36, is a multiplatinum singer who is best known for English-language hits like "She Bangs!" and "Livin' la Vida Loca." In recent years, the Puerto Rican star has been active in charitable efforts, including the prevention of sexual exploitation of children.

Angie Harmon, Jason Sehorn expecting third child

AP

In this July 21, 2007 file photo, actress Angie Harmon, right, and husband Jason Sehorn pose on the press line at the DesignCare 2007 benefit fundraiser in Malibu, Calif.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Angie Harmon and husband Jason Sehorn are expecting their third child, Harmon's publicist confirmed Wednesday. The 36-year-old actress and 37-year-old former National Football League player were married in 2001 and have two daughters, 4-year-old Finley and 3-year-old Avery.

Harmon's TV credits include "Law & Order" and "Women's Murder Club." Sehorn played for the New York Giants and the St. Louis Rams.

Sehorn proposed to Harmon on the "Tonight" show, surprising her in front of host Jay Leno by walking on stage, kneeling down and popping the question.

Former GnR drummer enters not guilty plea

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former Guns N' Roses drummer Steven Adler has pleaded not guilty to drug charges and will remain in rehab for at least the next month.

Adler appeared in Los Angeles Superior Court on Wednesday morning with a friend and therapist. A judge ordered him to remain in rehab while he awaits a preliminary hearing on a felony charge of drug possession and a misdemeanor count of being under the influence of drugs.

Los Angeles police arrested him last month and he was freed on $10,000 bail.

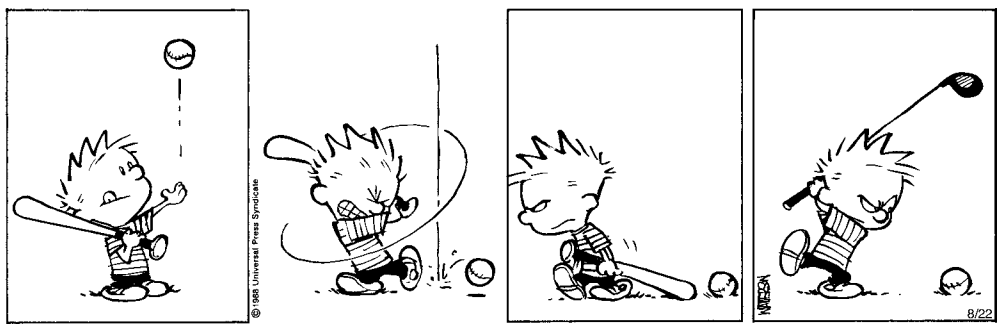
Adler's attorney says the 43-year-old musician's recovery is being monitored by celebrity rehab specialist Dr. Drew Pinsky.

Adler has a long history of drug use. He performed on the early Guns N' Roses albums but was later fired.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

YOUR BROTHER MAY HAVE GOTTEN YOUR MOTHER'S NOSE AND EYES, BUT YOU DEFINITELY GOT HER FEET... SO TO SPEAK.
BAC TO SCH SA
NORDS
BASSET 8-22
© 2003 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE
www.GOCOMICS.COM

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?
I WENT TO ONE OF THOSE STARVING ARTIST SALES.
© Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
8-22
OH, BROTHER! WHAT'D YOU GET? ONE OF THOSE LAME PAINTINGS OF A BUNCH OF DOGS PLAYING POKER?
NO. A PAINTING OF A BUNCH OF PEOPLE DRINKING OUT OF A TOILET BOWL.
Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Timetable abbr.
4 Cripple
8 Poet Teasdale
12 Prohibit
13 King of Siam's friend
14 Mountaineer's foothold
15 Censor's job
17 Canyon comeback
18 Resells for a big profit
19 McShane or McKellen
21 Retainer
22 Gooseflesh inducing
26 Stinky
29 Sweet potato
30 Vast expanse
31 Have coming
32 Western st.
33 Humpty's perch
34 Actress Joanne
35 Erstwhile acorn
36 Paratrooper's need
37 Bashful friend?
39 The girl
40 A/C meas.
41 "South Pacific" heroine
45 The gang
48 Comprehensive
50 Sheltered
51 Spuds' buds
52 S.A. nation
53 Rotate
54 Withered
55 Monterrey monarch

DOWN
1 Undergoes recession
2 Body powder
3 Neighborhood
4 Planned in detail, with "out"
5 Ouzo flavoring
6 Hostel
7 Miraculous
8 Landscape, e.g.
9 Orbit segment
10 "Go, team!"
11 Past
16 Sprite-like
20 Branch
23 Jacob's brother
24 Hit repeatedly
25 "Boola Boola" campus
26 G-men
27 Count counterpart
28 Verifiable
29 Tie up the phone
32 Horses
33 Puppy
35 Make up your mind
36 It's said to make you smile
38 Jed Clampett actor
39 Villainous look
42 Prevaricator
43 Concerning
44 Like quiche
45 — de deux
46 Matterhorn or Jungfrau
47 Floral garland
49 Zee preceder

Solution time: 25 mins.

W	R	A	P	■	B	A	T	S	■	K	E	N
E	E	L	S	■	A	L	O	E	■	I	R	E
B	A	B	Y	G	R	A	N	D	■	D	I	E
B	R	A	C	E	D	■	■	E	G	G	E	D
■	■	■	H	E	■	C	A	R	O	L	■	■
L	O	G	O	■	C	H	I	■	O	O	Z	E
A	N	I	■	■	O	I	L	■	■	V	I	A
B	E	G	S	■	R	L	S	■	W	E	P	T
■	■	■	Y	O	K	E	D	■	H	I	■	■
P	H	O	N	E	■	■	B	E	N	N	I	E
Y	O	U	■	T	A	T	E	R	T	O	T	S
R	U	N	■	C	H	A	R	■	E	L	A	M
E	R	G	■	H	A	N	G	■	R	O	L	E

Yesterday's answer 8-22

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			16					■	17			
18						■	19	20		■	■	■
■	■	■	21			■	22			23	24	25
26	27	28			■	29			■	30		
31				■	32			■	33			
34			■	35			■	36				
37			38			■	39			■	■	■
■	■	■	40			■	41			42	43	44
45	46	47		■	48	49						
50					51				■	52		
53				■	54				■	55		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Howie Dorough, 35; Tori Amos, 45; Cindy Williams, 61; Valerie Harper, 68

Happy Birthday: You can experience all sorts of interesting scenarios that will help guide you to better decisions concerning friends, children and relatives. You will have a change of opinion that influences how you handle a settlement, legality or medical situation. Reuniting with old friends or lovers will do you good. This year is a turning point that will lead to a new beginning. Your numbers are 9, 14, 22, 30, 34, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You are only as strong as your weakest link. Things will get convoluted if you mix business with pleasure and could cost you your position or someone else's. Listen and observe but refrain from giving your opinion. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You can make an impression on someone you want to get to know better or with whom you want to work in the future. Love is growing. By planning an eventful evening, you should be able to win someone's favor. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Make your plans carefully and follow through to the end. Once you begin your journey there will be no turning back. An old love may confuse you but if you remember why and how the relationship ended, you can make the right decision. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Give and take will show you can compromise, giving you the edge you need to gain the respect and trust of others. A relationship will take a surprising turn. In the end, you will realize the future looks good personally, emotionally and financially. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll be up against a personal challenge. Someone will lead you astray. Refrain from jumping from one thing to another. Think and plan carefully because doing things on the spur of the moment will be costly. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): An opportunity to make a personal change will enhance your looks and help you gain back your confidence. Don't push yourself on others but, instead, lure them with a tempting offer. A change of scenery will do you good. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Too much information is being withheld for you to make an honest assessment or a decision that may affect your future. Look for guidance from someone who is outside your circle. Love is in the picture. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): The people you least expect will be the ones you have to watch carefully. A great partnership can form with someone you meet who shares your beliefs, values and interests. Emotions will be hard to control so let your thoughts be known. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Consider your position instead of acting in haste. Stick close to home so that you can address any problems that arise. Mixed emotions will make you second-guess your direction. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): A deal you've been trying to finish can be closed. Money is coming your way from an unusual source. Love is in the stars and a promise can be made to someone you want in your life forever. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Be careful what you say. Someone will be offended, leaving you in a compromising position. Don't be insincere but do be tactful, pleasant and well-informed. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't let your plans be disrupted by someone who changes his or her mind at the last minute. Reevaluate some of your relationships and end the ones that hold you back. Negative people will never help you achieve your goals. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are compassionate and practical. You can adapt to whatever is required of you and turn any situation around with your charm and sound solutions.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6		5	3					
		9						
	1			7			3	
	7			5	8			4
			7		9			
9			6	3			2	
	6			2			8	
						9		
					1	5		7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	7	3	2	8	1	5	6	9
6	1	8	5	4	9	7	3	2
9	5	2	6	3	7	8	1	4
8	3	1	9	5	2	4	7	6
2	4	7	8	1	6	9	5	3
5	6	9	4	7	3	2	8	1
3	8	5	1	9	4	6	2	7
1	9	6	7	2	8	3	4	5
7	2	4	3	6	5	1	9	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/21

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

GARGOYLES **Solution: 8 letters**

P	H	G	N	I	N	R	O	D	A	D	R	A	I	N
H	U	M	O	R	O	U	S	L	S	E	P	I	P	O
A	M	S	Y	T	C	C	I	G	H	S	O	Y	E	I
N	A	E	H	S	H	A	R	I	N	I	U	D	P	T
G	N	J	E	M	T	I	T	O	S	G	R	O	A	C
I	O	E	A	S	F	E	C	H	S	N	S	B	H	E
N	I	C	D	F	E	I	R	E	E	U	R	A	S	L
G	D	T	I	E	R	C	R	I	O	D	R	O	G	L
G	N	N	E	T	U	U	U	I	O	A	R	N	H	O
U	E	I	U	M	T	T	G	R	C	U	I	A	Ⓔ	C
S	E	O	B	C	P	I	A	T	I	W	S	Ⓒ	L	R
H	P	N	U	M	L	L	E	T	T	T	Ⓐ	A	I	E
S	I	R	O	E	U	R	E	I	S	Ⓕ	Y	T	M	C
S	T	D	R	T	C	L	M	O	D	E	R	N	E	A
S	L	E	E	T	S	E	P	M	A	R	B	L	E	R

© 2008 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 8/22

Adorning, Body, Cathedral, Character, Collection, Design, Drain, Eject, Face, Gothic, Griffin, Gush, Hanging, Head, Hide, Horns, Humanoid, Humorous, Icons, Lime, Marble, Modern, Mysterious, Pipes, Plumbing, Pour, Push, Race, Religious, Sculpture, Security, Shape, Spout, Statue, Steel, Stone, Structures, Tail, Temple, Time, Water, Wing

Yesterday's Answer: Medieval

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-5734, ext. 6688. **Sorry,** no online orders for this special offer.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$25**
• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

gap gap

© 2008 WHATZIT? is a trademark of Paul Sellers
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Find today's solution in this section

Computer Repair
Only $20 Minor Problem
WE ALSO FIXED LOPTAP & USED PARTS
233-5641
Open 7 Day a Week 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

Make it a **daily** habit!

Log on to www.saipantribune.com

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

Navy Hill Apartments for rent. Spacious 2-bedroom units with beautiful view of Saipan. Featuring a private view balcony, fully furnished, FREE wireless DSL, 24-hour water, night-time security, typhoon shutters, laundry area, on-call maintenance staff & BACK-UP GENERATOR. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - COMMERCIAL

2 Commercial Space for Rent. One 2000 sq.ft. & One 1000 sq.ft. Garapan area across Treasure Island Game Club. Contact Emil De Belen @ 483-3645/233-5100

WHATZIT Solution:
Fill in the gaps

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Trib
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2007
Guard files sex harassment suit vs principa
2 hurt in Puerto Rico vehicular crash. PA
There is still hope for nonimm
joins Micronesia si
OPINION METER
This week's poll:
With what you know of the CUC situation, do you support the adoption of new regulatio

235- NEWS

Team USA cruises into semis; Argentina next

BEIJING (AP)—Don't doubt this U.S. men's basketball team—and sure don't challenge them, either.

Especially if it's going to make Kobe Bryant flash his NBA MVP form.

Bryant scored 25 points in his best game in Beijing, and the men's U.S. Olympic team advanced to the semifinals by beating Australia 116-85 on Wednesday night.

The United States will play defending champion Argentina on Friday night for a spot in Sunday's gold medal game. The Argentines beat Greece 80-78 in a quarterfinal victory watched from behind the baseline by Bryant and members of the U.S. coaching staff.

Argentina beat the U.S. in the semifinals of the 2004 Olympics.

Locked in what looked like another tough game with Australia, the Americans sent the Aussies' upset hopes down under with a 14-0 burst to open the second half, featuring nine points from Bryant.

"Early in the game, they made a lot of tough shots," U.S. point guard Chris Paul said. "We were doing what we were supposed to be doing and they made tough shots, but sooner or later we'll impose our will. I don't know if you can keep up with us for 40 minutes."

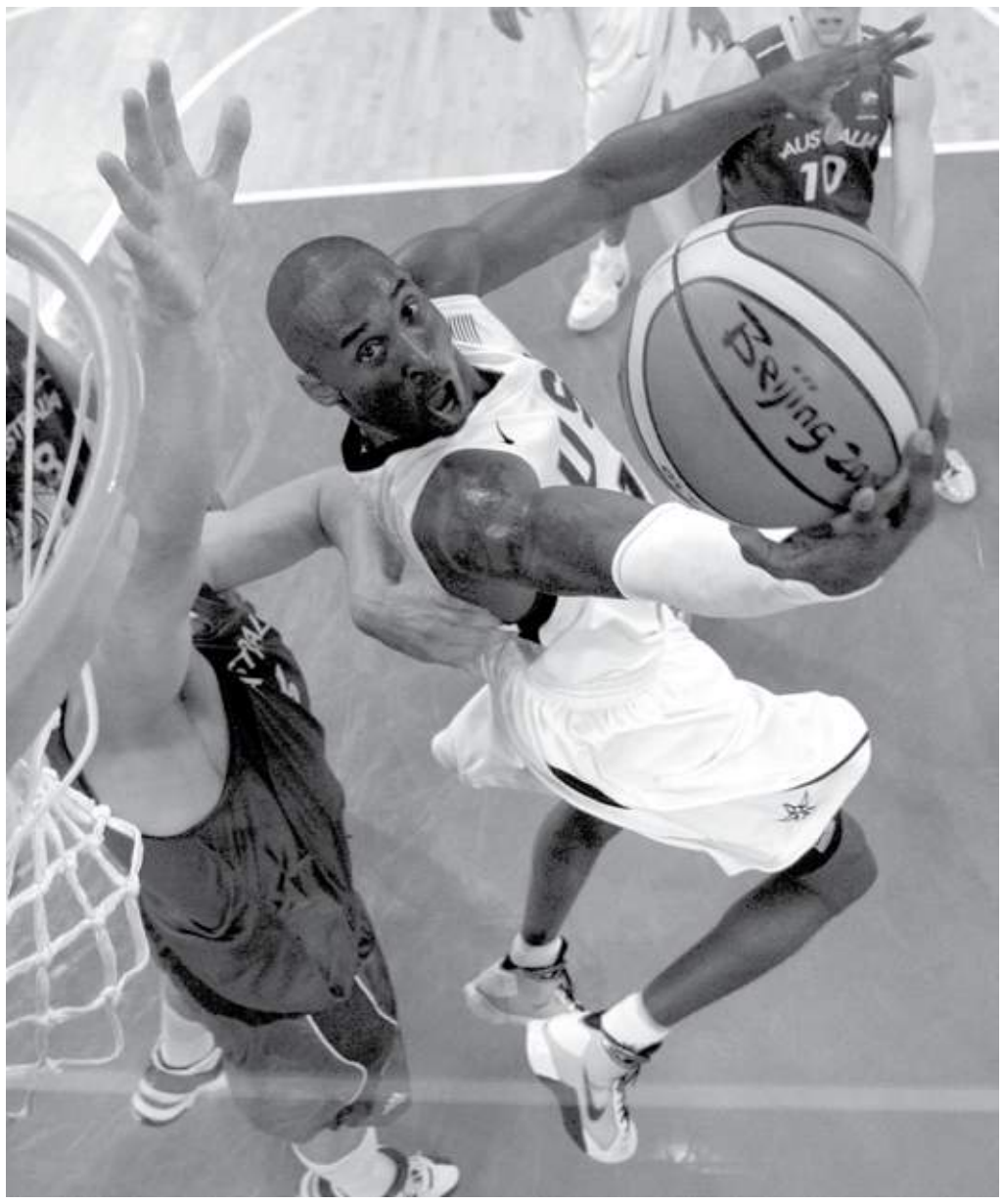
LeBron James added 16 points for the Americans, who are guaranteed a chance to play for a medal. They need two more wins for their first gold medal in a major international competition since the 2000 Sydney Games.

"I think they're going to be very, very, very tough to beat," Australia coach Brian Goorjian said.

As the US expected, with the gold medal getting closer, the games are getting tougher.

Australia stayed with the United States for the first 15 minutes of the game, duplicating the strong performance it had against the Americans in an 87-76 exhibition loss in Shanghai on Aug. 5—a contest the Americans led by only seven points midway through the fourth quarter.

U.S. players picked from a list of excuses, including fatigue from too many games and looking past the game while thinking ahead to Beijing, but it was clear early on that the Australians gained confidence from that effort.



AP

USA's forward Kobe Bryant shoots as Australia's Andrew Bogut, left, defends during the second half of their men's quarterfinal basketball game at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2008.

"They've been the most difficult team for us to defend," U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "They're a force to be reckoned with. They caused us a lot of problems."

Showing no fear of the Americans, the Australians delivered hard fouls and attacked the basket instead of settling for jump shots. They trailed by just a point after a quarter and five more than halfway through the second—and would have been closer if not for missing four easy shots in the half.

A hard foul on Carmelo Anthony by Mark Worthington late in the second quarter fired up James, and maybe triggered Bryant's burst.

Bryant had two buckets in a late run that turned a five-point lead into a 12-point halftime advantage, then helped the Americans make it a rout to start the third.

He made two 3-pointers and had three more points in the first 31/2 minutes of the period as the U.S. lead grew to 69-43. Australia was shut out for nearly half the period, finally scoring on Patrick Mills' 3-pointer with 6:02 remaining.

"Australia played extremely well for the first 20 minutes," James said. "In the third quarter, we said the first three or four minutes we need to pick it up a little bit defensively and make the extra pass offensively."

Mills, who plays at Saint Mary's College in California, led Australia with 20 points. Milwaukee Bucks center Andrew Bogut, who sat out the exhibition game while resting a sore ankle, was in early foul trouble and finished with only four points.

Now the Americans move on to the round where their recent dreams have died. They lost in the semis four years ago in Athens and then in the 2006 world championship.

Everywhere the Americans go, they are reminded of those recent failures. A back page ad in the China Daily on Wednesday had pictures of Bryant and James below a caption reading, "Nothing is more motivating than bronze."

The loaded U.S. team hasn't needed Bryant to be a scorer since he joined the team last year, so he's been content to be its top defender. He averaged 12.6 points in the preliminary round, but Wednesday was 10-for-16 from the floor, hitting four 3-pointers.

Anthony had 15 points for the Americans, who blew by the 103 points they averaged in group play and shot 57 percent.

Rams' RB Steven Jackson will end holdout

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Rams running back Steven Jackson ended his holdout on Wednesday and St. Louis appeared on the verge of signing him to a new multiyear contract.

Jackson told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch he had agreed "in principle" to terms of a deal. He added that once a few details were ironed out, "We'll be pretty much done."

The 235-pound Jackson, a bruising runner and the centerpiece of the Rams' offense, is entering the final season of a five-year, $7 million deal he signed as a first-round pick in 2004. His prolonged stand perhaps reflected a realization of his value to an attack that averaged only 16 points last season while the team went 3-13.

Jackson told the newspaper in a story on its Web site that the stalemate had been about a difference in philosophy. He said talks "recommenced" late last week, and Jackson booked a flight from Las Vegas to St. Louis on Wednesday when a deal appeared imminent.

The Rams cut off negotiations in late July on the first day of training camp after Jackson's agent, Eugene Parker, turned down a deal the team said would have put Jackson in the top echelon at his position.

At that time, Jay Zygmunt, the Rams' president of football operations, said there would be no further talks until the running back reported.

"This is certainly a step in the right direction," coach Scott Linehan said. "We're hoping we can get this thing squared away real quickly."

Parker, did not return a telephone message from the AP.

Jackson is scheduled for a physical Thursday morning and could make it onto the practice field that day. The Rams have a workout scheduled for 10:30 a.m.

"Steven is one of the best players in the NFL and we'd like to have him back," linebacker Chris Draft said Wednesday before Jackson ended his holdout.

Jackson had his third consecutive 1,000-yard season in 2007 despite missing four games with injuries and the Rams had made signing him to a contract extension a priority in the offseason. Zygmunt said the team approached Jackson's agent not long after the season to discuss a new deal, but negotiations stalled when Jackson switched representatives and signed with Parker in late June.

Linehan said earlier in the week that he didn't think it would take Jackson long to learn the new offense similar to that run by the 1999 Super Bowl championship team, because he participated in offseason workouts. New offensive coordinator Al Saunders was a top assistant under Dick Vermeil on that team.

Throughout the holdout, Linehan was careful to avoid criticism of Jackson. However, after the backup running backs combined for 144 yards on 28 carries and a touchdown in a 7-6 preseason victory over the Chargers on Saturday, the coach said Jackson's absence was getting to the critical stage.

It's likely Jackson will get a rude welcome back from fans in the Rams' third preseason game against the Ravens on Saturday. The Rams failed to sell out three games last season and Jackson was often critical of the lack of support.

Antonio Pittman, signed by the Rams last season after the Saints drafted him in the fourth round and then released him in their final roster cuts, gained 67 yards on nine carries last week as the stand-in feature back.

"I would approach it the same way if he was here," Pittman said. "I'm trying to compete and get better every day. Competition pushes us all and you can't look too far ahead. If you do, you might not be here."

IOC *chides Bolt for lack of respect to rivals*

BEIJING (AP)—IOC president Jacques Rogge criticized Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt on Thursday for showing a lack of respect to other competitors after his record-breaking gold medal performances in the 100 and 200 meters.

"That's not the way we perceive being a champion," Rogge said.

The International Olympic Committee chief hailed Bolt's stunning achievements in the two sprints, comparing him to American great Jesse Owens, but said Bolt should have cut out the look-at-me flaunting and acknowledged the other athletes.

"I have no problem with him doing a show," Rogge said in an interview with three international news agency reporters. "I think he should show more respect for his competitors and shake hands, give a tap on the shoulder to the other ones immediately after the finish and not make gestures like the one he made in the 100 meters."

Having built a huge lead in Saturday's 100 final, Bolt slowed, glanced around with arms outstretched and pounded his chest before crossing the finish line in a world record time of 9.69 seconds.

"I understand the joy," Rogge said. "He might have interpreted that in another way, but the way it was perceived was 'catch me if you can.' You don't do that. But he'll learn. He's still a young man."

Bolt, who turned 22 on Thursday, stormed to another one-sided victory Wednesday night in the 200, breaking Michael Johnson's 12-year-old record of 19.32 seconds and lowering the mark to 19.30.

Bolt made little effort to congratulate the other runners as he wrapped himself in a Jamaican flag and set off on a solo victory lap. Swaying to the reggae music on the stadium loudspeakers, he walked barefoot around the track, putting his face inches from a TV camera, raising an index finger and yelling, "I am No. 1! I am No. 1!"

"He still has to mature," Rogge said. "I would love him to show more respect for his competitors. That's not the way we perceive being a champion. But he will learn in time. He should shake hands with his competitors and not ignore them. He'll learn that sooner or later. But (he's) a great athlete, of course."

Bolt became the first man since Carl Lewis in 1984 to win the 100 and 200 golds at a single Olympics, and the only man ever to do it by breaking world records in both. Owens completed the 100-200 sweep at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, adding golds in the long jump and relay.

"Bolt is in another dimension in sprints," Rogge said. "Bolt must be considered now the same way like Jesse Owens should have been in the 1930s. Bolt has a bigger edge than Owens on his rivals. Of course, Owens had the long jump too, so you can't compare people. If he maintains that in the future, Bolt will be someone that probably leaves a mark like Jesse Owens."

Stern wants China affiliate league, presence in India

BEIJING (AP)—NBA commissioner David Stern is intrigued by the question buzzing around the Beijing Olympics: Who would win a match-up between the 1992 Dream Team and the 2008 Redeem Team?

"I'd actually pay to buy a ticket for that one," Stern said in an interview with The Associated Press on Tuesday. And though he wouldn't pick a winner, he seemed to favor the frontcourt of the 1992 team.

"David Robinson and Karl Malone? And that was the frontcourt," Stern said. "Who else was up there? Patrick Ewing. So Patrick, David and Karl Malone—that would be interesting."

That game may be a fantasy for hoop fans. But the reality is that both squads have helped the NBA as it tries to cash in on the global market.

The 1992 team—with icons such as Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson and Larry Bird—introduced NBA basketball to the world stage. Sixteen years later, Kobe Bryant, LeBron James and Dwyane Wade have become China's darlings—and the NBA is hoping capitalize on the basketball's popularity by investing millions in the sport's development in this sprawling nation.

The league has plans for an NBA-affiliated league in China, and Stern envisions league partnership in as many as "eight or 10 or 12 arenas throughout China."

"The world is embracing the sport that the Dream Teamers brought to Barcelona," Stern said. "And I would say the 2008 Olympics really demonstrate that complete embrace."

Stern said he never imagined the NBA/China relationship that began in 1985 would be as popular as it is at the Beijing Games.

"You know, I didn't even dare to think about that," Stern said. "The question was one step at a time. If you've been along on the journey, sometimes you don't realize how far you've come."

Stern said the league does not see China as an entry point to Asia.

India could be next on the NBA's radar. Stern said NBA officials have met in Beijing with Indian authorities, and the league staged its first Basketball Without Borders events in India this summer.

"We think that that's a very promising market," said Stern, who arrived in Beijing on Monday and attended the U.S. team's 106-57 victory over Germany.

"The sport is very much on the move," he said.

Stern said NBA China is in an "ongoing dialogue" with Chinese authorities about installing 800,000 baskets in villages across this sprawling country. The NBA also hopes to be involved with a Chinese professional league. But Stern balked at comparisons with the NBA's Development League.

"That would be a separate league that would be NBA-affiliated or NBA-sponsored, but it would be independent," Stern said. "And it would just sign players. For a very long time to come it would be at a lower scale than the NBA. But as the sport develops in China, and as more players around the world recognize the opportunities of playing in China, we see that league growing and strengthening."

For now, the NBA will maintain its on-court presence in China with exhibition games, with games planned for Guangzhou and Beijing this fall. The teams have not been announced.

"I think that that is likely to become a regular thing," Stern said.

The Chinese have adopted the 2008 U.S. Olympic team, which faces Australia in the quarterfinals on Wednesday night after annihilating its five Group B opponents.

Aside from host China and Yao Ming, the U.S. has been the crowd favorite in this tournament—a big change from 2004 Olympics in Athens, when the Americans were jeered.

"Coming out of Athens, there was just more of a focus at every level on the game and the representation of one's country, and we're just doing a better job collectively on that front," Stern said. "And our players, of course, are responding wonderfully."

One reason cited for the U.S. team's success: USA Basketball managing director Jerry Colangelo asked players for a three-year commitment culminating in Beijing. Stern endorses the idea.

"I think that I would encourage USA Basketball and the NBA players to focus upon longer than bringing a group together" for one tournament, Stern said. "I think that commitment is not just about the teamwork but also about the international discipline that comes from basketball diplomacy. And our players are learning their lessons well."

AP

China's center Yao Ming is defended by Lithuania's Robertas Javtokas, left, during the first quarter of their men's quarterfinal basketball game at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2008.

Settlement reached over Seattle SuperSonics' Oklahoma City move

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Clay Bennett's ownership group has reached a final settlement with the city of Seattle, allowing the former SuperSonics franchise to move to Oklahoma City.

Attorneys filed a document Tuesday in Seattle federal court noting that the parties had agreed to pay their own court costs after reaching the settlement.

Bennett announced last month that a settlement was being negotiated that would involve him making a payment of up to $75 million to Seattle to get out of the final two years of a lease at KeyArena.

At that time, he had expected the settlement to be finalized by Aug. 1. Instead, an extension was sought from the court and terms weren't reached until now.

Seattle City Attorney Tom Carr said in an e-mail to The Associated Press that the city had reached an agreement superseding the memorandum of understanding the parties had reached on July 2.

"It's a more detailed agreement on the same principles," Carr wrote in the e-mail.

The initial memorandum called for Bennett to make a $45 million payment to the city of Seattle to break the lease, and another $30 million payment if the city doesn't have a new NBA team within five years despite the Washington Legislature approving funding for a new arena by the end of next year.

That agreement also allowed Seattle to retain the rights to the SuperSonics' name, logo and team colors. The NBA hasn't yet announced what the Oklahoma City team will be called, and Bennett has refused to confirm a television station's report that the name would be "Thunder."

The federal court didn't release terms of the final settlement, and Carr didn't immediately have them available. Dan Mahoney, a spokesman for Bennett, declined to comment on the settlement.

Bennett still faces a lawsuit filed by former SuperSonics owner Howard Schultz seeking to void his 2006 sale of the team. If Schultz were to succeed in that lawsuit and the team moved back to Seattle, Bennett's initial agreement with the city called for a refund of his payment to break the lease.

NBA BRIEFS

Second stint with 76ers for Ratliff

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Theo Ratliff returned to the Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday, seven years after he was traded from the team during its run to the NBA Finals. The 35-year-old Ratliff played 26 games for Minnesota and Detroit and appeared in 12 of the Pistons' 17 playoff games. Terms of Ratliff's deal with the Sixers weren't disclosed. "We're very fortunate to sign a player of Theo's caliber," general manager Ed Stefanski said. "He is a consummate professional, both on the court and off, who will provide us with additional depth in the frontcourt while also serving as a mentor to some of our younger players." Ratliff has played for six teams during his 13 NBA seasons, including parts of four years with the Sixers from 1997-2001. In 705 career games, Ratliff has averaged 7.9 points, 6.1 rebounds and 2.6 blocks in 27 minutes. Ratliff helped the Sixers to the best record in the Eastern Conference during the 2000-01 season, but was sent to Atlanta before the trade deadline in a multiplayer deal that brought Dikembe Mutombo to Philadelphia. Ratliff was an All-Star that season, but broke his wrist in early February, precipitating the trade.

Oklahoma City waives Marshall

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Forward Donyell Marshall won't be making the move to Oklahoma City with the Seattle SuperSonics. The 14-year NBA veteran was waived Wednesday by the Oklahoma City franchise, which still hasn't been renamed after its relocation last month. Marshall was acquired by the franchise from Cleveland in a three-team trade in February that sent Wally Szczerbiak and Ben Wallace to the Cavaliers. He averaged 3.8 points off the bench in 15 games with Seattle and was sidelined by a sore right knee late last season. Adrian Griffin, who was the other player sent to Seattle in that trade, was shipped to Milwaukee last week as part of a deal that brought forwards Desmond Mason and Joe Smith to Oklahoma City.

Timberwolves unveil new uniforms

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Minnesota Timberwolves' extreme makeover is nearly complete. A year after overhauling their roster and going with a youth movement, the Wolves unveiled Monday a new look to go with their new team. The primary colors of blue, green and black remain in the new uniforms. But the home uniforms pay homage to the first jerseys the team wore by reading "Wolves" on the front instead of "Timberwolves." And for the first time in franchise history, the road uniforms will have "Minnesota" scripted across the front instead of "Wolves" or "Timberwolves." Spokesman Ted Johnson says the project became even more important when Kevin Garnett was traded to Boston. "It really is a new era, and it looks like it, too," Johnson said.

Suit over Supersonics ownership set for June trial

SEATTLE (AP)—Former Seattle SuperSonics owner Howard Schultz's court bid to regain control of the team will have to wait until after next season. Federal Judge Marsha Pechman has set a June 15 trial date for Schultz's lawsuit, which seeks to overturn his 2006 sale of the team to Clay Bennett. Pechman also heard the city of Seattle's lawsuit against Bennett, which resulted in a settlement allowing the team to relocate to Oklahoma City for the upcoming season. Schultz claims Bennett failed to follow through on his promise to make a good-faith effort get a new arena built to keep the team in Seattle.

Angels beat Rays to regain best record in AL

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)—Garret Anderson's infield single in the ninth inning extended his hitting streak to 23 games and gave the Los Angeles Angels a 5-4 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays in the American League on Wednesday.

Anderson struck out with the bases loaded in the seventh, but he came through in the same situation in the ninth, after the Rays had tied it 4-all on Carlos Pena's RBI double off Jose Arredondo (5-1).

The play initially was ruled an error on second baseman Akinori Iwamura. It later was changed to a hit, keeping Anderson's streak alive.

Erick Aybar had a two-run triple and Chone Figgins and Mark Teixeira also drove in runs for the Angels, who won for the first time in six games at Tropicana Field this season.

The victory enabled Los Angeles to nudge back ahead of Tampa Bay for the best record in the AL at 77-48.

Orioles 11, Red Sox 6

At Baltimore, Ramon Hernandez and Melvin Mora hit three-run homers, and Baltimore overcame an early deficit to avoid a three-game sweep.

Baltimore trailed 4-0 before scoring 10 straight runs against three Boston pitchers. Hernandez put the Orioles up 6-4 with his third-inning drive, and Mora's 21st homer of the season made it 10-4 in the fourth.

Yankees 5, Blue Jays 1

At Toronto, Derek Jeter hit a two-run homer for New York and Andy Pettitte pitched seven strong innings to snap a four-start winless streak.

Jeter's homer in the fourth inning was his eighth of the season and 203rd of his career, moving him past Bill Dickey and into a tie with Roger Maris for 11th place on the Yankees' all-time list.

He was 3-for-5 and is two hits shy of 2,500 for his career.

Pettitte (13-9) had not won since beating Boston on July 26. He allowed one run and five hits in seven innings.

White Sox 15, Mariners 3

At Chicago, Ken Griffey Jr. hit one of Chicago's four homers to move into a tie with Sammy Sosa for fifth on the MLB career list.

Griffey's two-run drive in the second inning was his first since Chicago acquired him from Cincinnati on July 31, and No. 609 for his career. The 13-time All-Star was just 9-for-43 with four RBIs and no extra-base hits for the White Sox entering the game.

Alexei Ramirez and A.J. Pierzynski each hit a three-run homer for AL Central-leading Chicago. Nick Swisher homered for the third straight game and Griffey scored three times.

Twins 3, Athletics 1

At Minneapolis, Mike Redmond drove in two runs for Minnesota, which survived some wildness by Francisco Liriano to send Oakland to its 11th straight series defeat for the first time since 1960.

The Twins won their 11th consecutive home series but play their next 14 games on the road.

Even though Liriano (4-3) lowered his ERA this month to 1.14, he did not look sharp. He threw a season-high 107 pitches, only 64 of them for strikes in five innings. He gave up five hits, walked three and struck out five against a lagging Oakland lineup.

Indians 8, Royals 5

At Cleveland, Franklin Gutierrez hit a three-run homer in Cleveland's five-run eighth inning.

The Indians' first four hits were home runs, two by Kelly Shoppach, as they stretched their winning streak to four. Kansas City has lost 11 of 13.

Gutierrez connected off closer Joakim Soria (1-3) to ruin a fine performance by Kansas City starter Gil Meche.

Rangers 9, Tigers 1

At Arlington, Texas, Kevin Millwood scattered six hits in his second complete game of the season, and Josh Hamilton hit one of five homers off Detroit starter Nate Robertson.

Travis Metcalf homered twice, once off Robertson (8-9), and Brandon Boggs, Michael Young and Milton Bradley also connected for the Rangers.

Hamilton had three hits, including his 29th homer, a solo shot in the fourth that gave him a major league-leading 115 RBIs.

Mets 6, Braves 3

At New York, Mike Pelfrey pitched a three-hitter for his first career complete game and David Wright homered to lead the New York Mets past the Atlanta Braves.

Pelfrey (12-8) also delivered at the plate, hitting an RBI single in a five-run first inning, when the NL East leaders took advantage of two Atlanta errors.

Daniel Murphy hit a two-run single, and Fernando Tatis also drove in a run for the Mets, who have won eight of nine and 11 of 14. They remained 1 1/2 games ahead of second-place Philadelphia.

Diamondbacks 8, Padres 6

At Phoenix, Adam Dunn hit his NL-leading 34th homer and his second in as many games for Arizona in a win over San Diego.

Chris Snyder homered for the Diamondbacks, who have won five of seven to maintain their lead over Los Angeles in the NL West.

Kevin Kouzmanoff and Jody Gerut homered for the Padres, who have lost six of eight.

Phillies 4, Nationals 0

At Philadelphia, Brett Myers tossed a nine-hitter for his first shutout in four years and Philadelphia handed Washington its 12th straight loss.

Myers (6-10) struck out nine and walked one in his sixth start since being recalled from the minors on July 20. He earned his first shutout since a 4-0 win over the Los Angeles Dodgers on May 20, 2004, and his first complete game since he tossed a six-hitter in a 6-2 victory against the Chicago Cubs on Sept. 20, 2006.

Brewers 5, Astros 2

At Milwaukee, Manny Parra lasted five innings to earn his first victory in a month, and J.J. Hardy hit a two-run homer as Milwaukee downed Houston.

Rickie Weeks walked three times and scored three runs, and Prince Fielder had two sacrifice flies for the Brewers, who managed four hits.

Parra (10-6) won 7-4 at San Francisco on July 20, then lost four straight decisions over his next five starts. He allowed two runs and six hits.

Carlos Villanueva worked two hitless innings, Eric Gagne got out of a jam in the eighth and Salomon Torres pitched the ninth for his 24th save.

Reds 2, Cubs 1

At Chicago, Bronson Arroyo allowed three hits and a run in seven innings and Cincinnati edged Chicago.

Arroyo (11-10) tied a career high with five walks, struck out four and was backed by two double plays in a duel with Cubs starter Ted Lilly, who held the Reds hitless the first five innings.

The loss was only the fifth in the last 22 games for the NL Central-leading Cubs.

Cardinals 11, Pirates 2

At St. Louis, Rick Ankiel and Jason LaRue hit two-run homers and St. Louis' Todd Wellemeyer beat Pittsburgh for the third time this season.

Skip Schumaker had three hits and Wellemeyer (11-4) won his fourth straight decision and added an RBI single for St. Louis, which won for the fourth time in its last 12 home games.

Ryan Doumit had three hits, including his 13th homer, for Pittsburgh, but Jason Davis (1-3) failed to make it out of the fourth coming off two effective starts. Doumit is hitting .538 (14-for-26) with five RBIs against the Cardinals and leads NL catchers with a .333 average.

Giants 6, Marlins 5

At San Francisco, Bengie Molina's sacrifice fly with one out in the bottom of the ninth gave San Francisco the victory over Florida.

Pinch-hitter John Baker hit a three-run homer in the top of the inning to tie it at 5 as Brian Wilson (1-2) suffered his first blown save since May 2.

Matt Lindstrom (1-2) walked Dave Roberts, gave up a single to Randy Winn, who homered in the game, and intentionally walked Aaron Rowand ahead of Molina.

Rich Aurilia, Fred Lewis and Emmanuel Burriss drove in runs for the Giants, who won for the fourth time in six games.

Rockies 4, Dodgers 3

At Los Angeles, Brad Hawpe had three RBIs, two on singles that drove in the tying and go-ahead runs, and Colorado capitalized on four errors for its fifth straight win.

Dodgers closer Jonathan Broxton (3-5) hit Matt Holliday with an 0-1 pitch to open the ninth. Holliday stole second, continued to third on a throwing error by backup catcher Danny Ardoin and scored when Hawpe lined a single just over leaping second baseman Jeff Kent with the infield pulled in.

Taylor Buchholz (6-3) pitched a perfect eighth for the win and Brian Fuentes did likewise in the ninth for his 24th save in 28 chances.

BACK TO SCHOOL
SPECIAL
$21.95/WEEK
Compaq Presario SR5404F
• AMD Sempron LE-1250 (5) 2.2GHz
• 22" LCD Widescreen • 2GB RAM
• 160GB SATA 3G • DVD± RW DL Lightscribe
• 6 Channel Audio • LAN 10/100 Network
• 15 in 1 Memory Card Reader
• Windows Vista Home Basic SP1
$19.95/WEEK
Compaq Presario C713NR
• Intel Pentium Dual Core T2310 1.46GHz • 15.4" Widescreen WXGA • 1GB RAM DDR2 • 80GB Hard Disk Drive • DVD Burner - Double Layer Support • Wireless 802.11 b/g • S-Video • 6-Cell Battery • 3 USB • Windows Vista Home Basic
"We've Got It All"
LCD TVs, Dining Room Sets, Washing Machines, Refrigerators and much much more...
This is a rental-purchase agreement and no ownership rights are acquired until total amount is paid or early buyout option is exercised.
DIAL Rent-to-Own
No Credit Checks!
No Repair Bills!
No Long Term Obligations!
234-RENT
SAIPAN
Middle Road, Gualo Rai next to Subway.
DELIVERY

Ginebra is king of PBA Fiesta Cup

MANILA, Philippines—Barangay Ginebra Wednesday night returned to greatness in the face of all sorts of adversities that many thought the Kings couldn't live through. And with a collective resolve in the season's final game, the Kings also proved that adversity is what they thrive on.

Walking wounded for practically the whole year, the Kings dug deep one more time and humbled an Air21 side that welcomed itself to the PBA's elite, hammering out a 97-84 Game 7 victory for the Smart PBA Fiesta Cup before a stomping, chanting throng at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City.

Ronald Tubid scored 22 points, making all of his 11 free throw attempts, and Eric Menk added 21 and 14 rebounds to share Finals MVP honors in a series that will go down the history books as one of the closest ever fought.

Tubid played just his fourth game in these Finals, returning from a six-week absence because of a dislocated ankle to infuse the fire missing in the team because of injuries to Jayjay Helterbrand and Mark Caguioa.

Menk, meanwhile, played like the reliable warrior that he is after spending most of the eliminations on the bench because of various injuries. He went on to average 12 points and 7.1 rebounds while becoming the prime offensive option Wednesday night.The Ginebra victory altered the ending that the Express had hoped for after easing out front, 3-2, with a masterful Game 5 victory.

And the inexperience of the Express showed during times of trouble in the rubber match, as the veterans, Wynne Arboleda most notable among them, folded up in the face of a searing stand put up by the Kings.

"What's there to really say? Every championship means a lot," coach Jong Uichico, soaked and all, later said after pocketing his eighth career championship. "You are really happy about it because you've worked so hard for a certain goal.

"The important thing is to keep on trying," he added. "It's hard to explain how we won the series. The players deserve all the credit for not giving up despite all the adversities we had to encounter."

The Kings were without Helterbrand for the fifth consecutive game, and leading local scorer Caguioa has continued to be weighed down by tendonitis, as he was the whole series.

Still, it was Ginebra's eighth title overall and first since the Philippine Cup last year, which was Uichico's first tournament at the helm of the Kings.

Air21, in the Big Dance for the first time in six years in the league, got all the opening it could wish for after Junthy Valenzuela and import Chris Alexander limped out of the floor late in the third quarter when both suffered different leg injuries.

And that was after the Kings had established leads of as many as 13 points, the last at 65-52 after a daredevil drive by Tubid heading into the final 7:34 of the third quarter.

Alexander, adjudged as the Best Import over Thomas earlier in the series, did return after getting treated for cramps. But he picked up his fifth personal just as quick, but still played enough defense without having to surrender his sixth despite chasing prolific Air21 reinforcement Steven Thomas.

Air21 led, 84-83, after an Arwind Santos follow-up of his own miss with 4:27 to play. But that would prove to be the final time that the Express would score, as they lapsed into a maze of errors and ill-advised shots.

Barangay Ginebra 97 – Tubid 22, Menk 21, Alexander 16, Caguioa 13, Valenzuela 10, Artadi 8, Crisano 4, Pacana 3, Mamaril 0, Salvacion 0, Reavis 0.

Air21 84 – Thomas 24, Santos 19, David 18, Canaleta 8, Billones 6, De Ocampo 5, Cruz 3, Arboleda 1, Kramer 0, Intal 0, Espinas 0, Sotto 0, Se 0.

Quarters: 26-21, 49-46, 72-63, 97-84. ***(PDI)***

JR. NETTERS

From Page 44

nia in June, but still competed in POJC early this month.

"Before the POJC, Ji Hoon's form, confidence, and fitness were in question. Mayuko and I played some games with him to get his form and confidence back. He was doing fine in the first two days of the tournament despite playing hurt. He is a smart player, he knows how to win despite his limitations," Race said.

"But in the finals, he was really overpowered by Lorenzo Pineda of Vanuatu. Heo did not have the fitness to outclass Pineda and he was bothered by the condition of his fungal-infected feet. It was a combination of blisters and athletes' foot," Race added.

After the POJC, Heo played in the Oceania Closed Junior Championships and Race was quite impressed with the CNMI bet.

"He lost several tough matches, but he was the lone player from the Pacific who was not intimidated by players from Australia and New Zealand," Race said.

In a doubles tournament, Heo teamed up with Fiji's William O'Connell and made impressive showings against the Aussies and Kiwis with the CNMI netter reminding his teammate not to get intimidated by their world-ranked foes.

"One time, Ji Hoon was upset because William was reluctant with his game. The next day, a different William came out. He was less intimidated by Australian and New Zealand players," Race added.

Race also had good words for Rafael and Miller.

He said Rafael trained so hard in summer and reaped the fruits of his hard labor in the first week of the tournament, placing third in the boys' 13-under division.

"He was very impressive in his first tournament in Fiji. He was hitting those balls hard, giving the veterans a tough time," Race said.

Miller was not at his peak in the first week during the POJC, but made his presence felt in the Oceania Plate tournament, moving into the finals against Fiji's Devin Khatri.

Jones advanced to the semis of the Oceania Plate tournament, but lost to Miller . The two CNMI bets failed to play on the last day of the tournament, as they needed to catch a return flight to Saipan.

"I knew Christian wanted to play and win the match, but we could not make an arrangement to leave Fiji on Aug. 22, so we had to pack our things early and leave before the championship game," Race said.

The title match was scheduled Wednesday morning and the CNMI netters left Lautoka early Wednesday morning.

ATM

From Page 44

remaining minutes in the third period, helping the latter keep a 14-point lead, 63-49, entering the final quarter.

Autonomous drilled seven triples in the fourth period to cruise to an easy victory, the team's third in a row.

Autonomous 100 – Coldeen 23, P. Rasa 18, Wesley 15, S. Rasa 14, Diaz 14, Pangilinan 8, Aaron 5.

Aguguat 81 – R. Sablan 23, M. Guerrero 22, Ja. Sablan 16, JP Sablan 16, Reyes 4.

Scoring by quarters: 20-20, 54-40, 63-49, 100-81.

Referees: Eric Artillaga and Gilbert Espinosa.

WALSH

From Page 44

soaked their skimpy uniforms.

"The rain makes it better," Walsh shouted afterward, unable to contain the California girl enthusiasm that earned her the nickname "Six Feet of Sunshine." "We felt like warriors out there. The pressure of playing China made it pretty intense."

Earlier, Xue Chen and Zhang Xi won China's first beach volleyball medal, beating Brazilians Talita and Renata 21-19, 21-17 for the bronze.

Walsh put an early end to China's chances to add a gold when she quick-hit May-Treanor's pass between Wang and Tian. The Americans dropped to their knees on the wet sand, hugging each other before shaking hands with the officials and running to the stands to embrace their friends and families.

They were still celebrating, wrapping themselves in U.S. flags, as organizers worked through the rain to set up the podium for the medal ceremony.

"Ever since the ball dropped in Athens, we've wanted to repeat as Olympic champions," May-Treanor said. "No one's ever done it."

Walsh's bubbly smile couldn't part the clouds that drenched the Chaoyang Park venue for the bronze- and gold-medal matches. It was no day to be at the beach—not for Wang and Tian, and not for the fans who huddled under pastel ponchos and umbrellas that, on a day more appropriate for sun and sand, would be used as parasols.

But the 12,200-seat venue was packed, the dancers in bikinis jiggled to rock music and the players pressed on without concern for the weather. The wet and heavy ball forced them to bump-set instead of doing it over their heads, and the sometimes driving rain made it difficult to look up to receive passes.

"When the ball goes too high, you can't see it too easy," said Renata, her eyes wet from crying, as well. "But it's OK, because if it is raining for us, it is raining for them."

The Americans scored three straight points to break a 17-17 tie in the first. China survived one set point before May-Treanor spiked one down the line for the winner.

The Americans cruised through the two-year qualifying process in a year, giving Walsh a break this spring to recover from offseason shoulder surgery. Managing the pain with massages and a special tape that is said to increase blood flow, Walsh showed no signs of wear.

Tian did need a medical timeout with the score 17-15. As she sat under the canopy that covers the bench, a trainer massaged her left arm before sending her back to the sand.

SIXERS

From Page 44

points in the first half to put the Sixers in the driver's seat, 29-22.

The Sixers never looked back from thereon, stretching the lead to as much as 19 points midway in the second half, 56-37, with Ada getting help from Matt Duenas and Ian Benavente.

Duenas made all his eight points in the second half, while Benavente had back-to-back baskets which sparked the Sixers' breakaway.

Ada finished what he started, scoring nine of San Antonio's last 11 points.

The much experienced Sixers clearly outgunned the G-Stars, whose leading scorer, Lia Rangamar, made only 11 markers. Dino Palacios chipped in 10.

The Sixers joined the Southern Sonics, G-Rollers I in the win column.

Eight teams are battling for this year's championship. The CNMI Junior Nationals opened the season with a loss to the Sonics Monday night, 64-71. The G-Rollers II played in the second game of the year Tuesday night and bowed to sister team G-Rollers I, 2-87.

Only the Capital Hill and Kagman Suns have yet to complete their debut game as of press time. They were set to play last night.

Sixers 65 – Ada 22, E. Duenas 12 M. Duenas 8, R. Duenas 6, Benavente 6, Ano 5, C. DUenas 4, Agtarap 2, J. Duenas 2.

G-Stars 52 – L. Rangamar 11, Palacios 10, Ichihara 8, Sablan 6, Kautz 4, S. Rangamar 3, Deleon Guerrero 2, Manalili 2.

Scoring by quarters: 29-22, 65-52.

Referees: Connie Camacho and Arnold Mesa.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	77	49	.611	–
Boston	73	54	.575	4 1/2
New York	67	59	.532	10
Toronto	65	61	.516	12
Baltimore	61	65	.484	16

Central Division

Chicago	73	53	.579	–
Minnesota	72	54	.571	1
Detroit	62	65	.488	11 1/2
Cleveland	58	67	.464	14 1/2
Kansas City	55	71	.437	18

West Division

Los Angeles	77	48	.616	1/2
Texas	63	65	.492	15 1/2
Oakland	57	69	.452	20 1/2
Seattle	46	80	.365	31 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	70	57	.551	–
Philadelphia	68	58	.540	1 1/2
Florida	65	62	.512	5
Atlanta	56	71	.441	14
Washington	44	83	.346	26

Central Division

Chicago	77	49	.611	–
Milwaukee	73	55	.570	5
St. Louis	71	58	.550	7 1/2
Houston	64	63	.504	13 1/2
Pittsburgh	57	70	.449	20 1/2
Cincinnati	56	71	.441	21 1/2

West Division

Arizona	66	60	.524	–
Los Angeles	64	62	.508	2
Colorado	59	69	.461	8
San Francisco	54	72	.429	12
San Diego	48	78	.381	18

Yesterday's Games

Milwaukee 5, Houston 2
Philadelphia 4, Washington 0
N.Y. Mets 6, Atlanta 3
Cincinnati 2, Chicago Cubs 1
St. Louis 11, Pittsburgh 2
Arizona 8, San Diego 6
Colorado 4, L.A. Dodgers 3
San Francisco 6, Florida 5
Minnesota 3, Oakland 1
Chicago White Sox 15, Seattle 3
Baltimore 11, Boston 6
Cleveland 8, Kansas City 5
N.Y. Yankees 5, Toronto 1
L.A. Angels 5, Tampa Bay 4
Texas 9, Detroit 1

2008 BEIJING OLYMPICS

Medal Count

	G	S	B	Total
United States	27	28	28	83
China	45	15	21	81
Russia	14	14	18	46
Britain	17	11	11	39
Australia	11	13	13	37
France	4	12	14	30
Germany	11	8	10	29
South Korea	8	10	6	24
Japan	8	6	9	23
Italy	6	7	8	21
Ukraine	5	5	8	18
Netherlands	5	5	4	14
Canada	2	6	5	13
Belarus	2	3	8	13
Cuba	1	6	6	13
Spain	4	5	2	11
New Zealand	3	1	5	9
Romania	4	1	3	8
Poland	3	4	1	8
Kenya	2	4	2	8
Kazakhstan	1	3	4	8
Jamaica	4	3	0	7
Brazil	1	1	5	7
Denmark	2	1	3	6
North Korea	2	1	3	6
Norway	1	3	2	6
Czech Republic	2	3	0	5
Switzerland	2	0	3	5
Azerbaijan	1	2	2	5
Slovenia	1	2	2	5
Bulgaria	1	1	3	5
Indonesia	1	1	3	5
Hungary	0	4	1	5
Uzbekistan	0	2	3	5
Armenia	0	0	5	5
Slovakia	3	1	0	4
Georgia	2	0	2	4
Zimbabwe	1	3	0	4
Turkey	1	2	1	4
Sweden	0	3	1	4
Ethiopia	2	1	0	3
Finland	1	1	1	3
Argentina	1	0	2	3
Austria	0	1	2	3
Greece	0	1	2	3
Lithuania	0	1	2	3
Chinese Taipei	0	0	3	3
Estonia	1	1	0	2
Mongolia	1	1	0	2
Thailand	1	1	0	2
India	1	0	1	2
Mexico	1	0	1	2
Algeria	0	1	1	2
Colombia	0	1	1	2
Croatia	0	1	1	2
Kyrgyzstan	0	1	1	2
Serbia	0	1	1	2
Bahrain	1	0	0	1
Cameroon	1	0	0	1
Panama	1	0	0	1
Tunisia	1	0	0	1
Chile	0	1	0	1
Dominican Republic	0	1	0	1
Ecuador	0	1	0	1
Malaysia	0	1	0	1
Portugal	0	1	0	1
Singapore	0	1	0	1
South Africa	0	1	0	1
Trinidad and Tobago	0	1	0	1
Vietnam	0	1	0	1
Afghanistan	0	0	1	1
Egypt	0	0	1	1
Iran	0	0	1	1
Israel	0	0	1	1
Latvia	0	0	1	1
Morocco	0	0	1	1
Tajikistan	0	0	1	1
Togo	0	0	1	1
Venezuela	0	0	1	1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

66 take part in Foundation & Family Day Walk

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Participants from Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan and a Japanese couple who came to the CNMI to dive were among the 66 participants of last Saturday's 7th Annual Foundation & Family Day Walk held along the Saipan Beach Pathway.

No less than the Garapan landmark's general manager, B.K. Park, led dozens of Fiesta Resort and Spa employees in the walk sponsored by the Saipan Walking Association, Inc., which started bright and early at 6am.

Yasuhiro Kameda and his wife, Mayumi, from Fukui Prefecture also took part in the event. The two have previously visited the CNMI seven times to dive but decided to shake things up on their eighth trip by joining the walk.

"They were happy to find out about this event and really enjoyed walking. Unfortunately, the weather was cloudy and had a squall toward the end of the walk, but participants still enjoyed the Saturday morning walk," said SAIWAI board member Hiroko Tajima.

Starting point for the 7th Annual Foundation & Family Day Walk was at the Carolinian Utt, all the way up to the Japanese tank on Quartermaster Road and back for the five-kilometer route and to the Oleai Beach Bar and back for the 10-km walk.

Like all SAIWAI activities, IVV members received credit for joining the 7th Annual Foundation & Family Day Walk.

IVV has member walking clubs in the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Japan, South Korea, Turkey, Nepal, Australia, New Zealand, the CNMI, and 29 other European countries, including Germany.

SAIWAI's next walk is scheduled on Nov. 15 when they hold the Don't be a Turkey Walk in cooperation with the Department of Public Health and CNMI Diabetes Coalition.

For more information about the 7th Annual Foundation & Family Day Walk and SAIWAI's future events, contact Hiroko Tajima at 322-8781 or Bea Quitugua at 285-1694.

SAIWAI was incorporated as a non-profit corporation on July 27, 2001, and was established to promote public health through non-competitive walking.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

A total of 66 participants braved the cloudy conditions to take part in last Saturday's 7th Annual Foundation & Family Day Walk held along the Saipan Beach Pathway.

Yasuhiro Kameda and his wife, Mayumi, pose with Saipan Walking Association, Inc. president Jesus T. Guerrero, left, after last Saturday's 7th Annual Foundation & Family Day Walk held along the Saipan Beach Pathway.

No less than the Garapan landmark's general manager B.K. Park, fifth from left, led dozens of Fiesta Resort and Spa employees in the walk sponsored by the Saipan Walking Association, Inc.

Espiritu, Soriano, Zheng out of $1K pool tourney

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The island's top pool cue artists—Roger "The Ghost" Espiritu, Jerry Soriano, and Zheng Jian Qing—are barred from taking part in the Top Pool Bar Professional 8-Ball Billiards Tournament set tomorrow night, Aug. 23, at the Garapan sports bar and watering hole.

Zheng, who owns the billiards venue, said he is taking himself out of the competition and will not extend invitations to Espiritu and Soriano to allow other players to win the annual big-money competition.

He said, in the past, other billiards players on Saipan have shied away from tournaments after finding out that the three of them are competing.

Zheng said with him, Espiritu, and Soriano out of the equation, it would make the field more balanced and anyone can take home the $500 first place purse.

MARK RABAGO

Roger "The Ghost" Espiritu, seen here in a file photo, along with Jerry Soriano and Zheng Jian Qing are barred from taking part in the Top Pool Bar Professional 8-Ball Billiards Tournament.

Registration for the Top Pool Bar Professional 8-Ball Billiards Tournament starts at 7pm with game time set an hour later at 8pm.

The $1,000 tournament kicks off with the elimination phase of the single-elimination, race-to-seven billiards competition. Slots are open for as much as 32 players.

The number of players would be whittled down to eight players in the tournament's second phase with Top Pool Bar expected to crown the champion shortly before midnight.

One of the glitziest billiards halls on Saipan is putting out all the stops in hosting the biggest cash prize for a billiards tournament in the Commonwealth in the one-day pool extravaganza.

The Top 3 players get to divide the $1,000 pot. The champion takes home $500, while the first runner-up gets to line his pockets with $300. The second runner-up wins $150, while the third runner-up bags $50.

Entry fee for the Top Pool Bar Professional 8-Ball Billiards Tournament is $30 per person and pairings will be done through a draw.

Top Pool Bar, located along Hotel Street Garapan a stone's throw away from the Paseo de Marianas, is as spacious as it is modern and boasts of two 9-1/2-by-5-foot tables usually found in professional tournaments abroad.

Zheng also reminded interested players that early birds get a chance to practice for free on any of Top Pool Bar's full-size billiard tables an hour before the competition.

For more information on the Top Pool Bar Professional 8-Ball Billiards Tournament, call Zheng at 287-7676 or check out the competition's website at www.saipanero.com/bars/toppoolbar.

August Budweiser bowling this Sunday and Monday

It's that time of the month again as Saipan Bowling Association with the help of Budweiser, the King of Beers, will host the August King and Queen of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament this Sunday and Monday, Aug. 24 and 25, at the Capital Bowling Center in Garapan.

Sunday's roll-off would begin an hour later than last month's as a 4pm kickoff date has been set, while Monday's competition starts at the usual 6pm. Registration starts 30 minutes prior to game time. Awarding ceremonies immediately follow the end of competition on Monday.

The competition is exclusive for SBA members with participants limited to the first 72 entries for each day.

Members have the option to bowl on the Sunday or Monday, or on both days, provided that the $15 entry fee is paid. Bowlers who did not bowl on Sunday will be given priority for the Monday shift. Only the higher score will count for the tournament. All participants have to pay the $15 SBA annual membership fee.

The champion is guaranteed $100 in prize money but it could go up to as much $150 depending on the number of participants. Women participants will only have separate prizes if there are at least 10 entries.

Youth bowlers (12 to 19 years old, not bowling in any leagues or averaging less than 170 in any league), meanwhile, will duke it out in the Bing Energy Drink Prince and Princess of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament in Day 1 of the monthly competition. Entry fee is $10 for the Bing Energy Drink Prince and Princess of the Lanes.

After being sponsor-less for the whole of 2007, the Saipan Bowling Association's monthly King and Queen of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament as well as its season-ending bowlfest has secured the help of MARPAC for this year's competition.

The Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tournament aims to crown 12 monthly champions through the course of the year.

For early registration and payment, see or contact Gigi or Ross Zapanta at 288-5627 or email zapanta@pticom.com. ***(Mark Rabago)***

PIC Horseshoe tourney set

The 2008 Pacific Islands Club Horseshoe Tournament returns for the ninth straight season when competition kicks off at 9am on Sept. 7 on the grounds of the San Antonio hotel.

The annual one-day tournament, which will award cash prizes to the Top 3 pairs, will follow a random draw, doubles-team and double-elimination bracket format.

The entrance fee for the tournament is $10 per person, which includes a one-day waterpark pass to all participants.

Two yeas ago, Irma Halaby and Nick Gross bested a record-setting field of 33 other pairs to win the 2006 edition.

Halaby and Gross breezed through the elimination round and the semifinals carrying over their momentum in the finals where they defeated the pair of Randy Steele and Skip Bull, 18-16.

They won $202 with the victory, while Steele and Bull settled for the $100 runner-up prize. Amanda Puleo and Pam Thorpe finished third bringing home $46 after a 12-10 loss to Steele and Bull.

For more information about the 2008 Pacific Islands Club Horseshoe Tournament, call Lindsey, Cole, Sergei, or Glenn at 235-6231 at extensions 5147 or 5148 or email them at seasexec@picsaipan.com or stop by at the SEA office at PIC. ***(Mark Rabago)***

66 take part in Foundation & Family Day Walk

Participants from Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan and a Japanese couple who came to the CNMI to dive were among the 66 participants of last Saturday's 7th Annual Foundation & Family Day Walk held along the Saipan Beach Pathway. 43

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Team USA cruises into semis; defending champ Argentina next

Don't doubt this U.S. men's basketball team–and sure don't challenge them, either. Especially if it's going to make Kobe Bryant flash his NBA MVP form. 39

Jr. netters return from successful POJC stint

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Junior Tennis Team returned from Lautoka, Fiji, yesterday after showing one of their strongest performances in years in the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships held at the Robin Mitchell Regional Tennis Centre.

"We had a great time in Fiji. The players of the North team showed a very strong performance and I believed this is one of our strongest showings in the POJC," said CNMI coach Jeff Race, who arrived here Monday morning with Rafael Jones, Christian Miller, Dina Jones, and Mayuko Arriola after staying in Fiji for more than two weeks.

The North squad, which was composed of netters from the CNMI, Guam, and Kiribati was runner-up to the West team. In the last three years of the POJC, the North squad finished last. Individually, CNMI netters made their marks in the POJC, which took place at the Robin Mitchell Regional Tennis Centre in Lautoka.

"Ji Hoon gave us our best finish, making it to the No. 2 spot. Thea was third, Raffy was fourth, Christian was eighth, Mayuko was fifth, and Dina played several tough matches," Race said.

Race added Heo could have won the boys' 18-under finals if he was not playing hurt. The CNMI top netter sprained his right ankle in New Caledo-

See JR. NETTERS on Page 42

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
CNMI Junior Tennis Team that saw action in the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships poses with coach Jeff Race. From left, Rafael Jones' father John, Jones, Christian Miller, Dina Jones, Mayuko Arriola, and Jeff after arriving at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport early yesterday morning.

ATM cruises past Aguaguat in makeup game

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Autonomous picked up where it left off drubbing Aguaguat, 100-81, in the continuation of their power outage-suspended match in the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/Business Basketball League Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Autonomous-Aguguat tiff was played three weeks ago, but was cancelled with four minutes, 38 seconds left in the third quarter when the power went off.

The defending champion was leading Aguaguat, 57-42, when the match was suspended.

In the resumption of the game, both teams had only four players each, but still organizers decided to continue the match.

Bobby Coldeen, who had only eight points when the match was halted, came out with his guns blazing Thursday night, firing 15 markers in the remaining minutes of the game.

Ed Diaz, who did not play in the first three quarters, added 14, while Tim Wesley chipped in seven of his 15 at the resumption of the game.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Autonomous' Bobby Coldeen, 21, tries to move away from the defense of a CPA player during their game in the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/Business Basketball League last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Everly Pangilinan was the fourth player to suit up for Autonomous in the 4-on-4 game against Aguaguat and contributed eight markers.

Ryan Sablan led Aguaguat's losing cause, nailing 23 points, but missed the make-up game. Mike Guerrero had 22, while Jason Sablan and Paul Sablan scored 16 apiece.

The game ended in a deadlock after the first quarter, 20-all, with Ryan Sablan holding his ground against Autonomous' Ponce Rasa. Sablan had nine first-quarter points, while Rasa scored 10.

But Autonomous controlled the game in the second period and took a 14-point halftime lead when Steve Rasa joined the scoring spree and Wesley started hitting his stride.

Steve had 14 points in the second quarter, while Wesley nailed eight.

Ryan Sablan continued to anchor Aguaguat's offense in the second period, adding 14 points before failing to play in the make-up game. He scored Aguaguat's last two points before the match was suspended.

Aguaguat only matched Autonomous' output in the

See ATM on Page 42

AP
United States' Misty May-Treanor, right, and teammate Kerri Walsh celebrate after the gold medal women's beach volleyball match against China at the Chaoyang Park Beach Volleyball Ground at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Thursday, Aug. 21, 2008.

Walsh, May-Treanor win 2nd beach volleyball gold

By JIMMY GOLEN
AP SPORTS WRITER

BEIJING (AP)—The Chinese and the wretched Beijing weather were no match for Misty May-Treanor and "Six Feet of Sunshine." May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh won their second consecutive gold medal in beach volleyball Thursday, playing through a steady and sometimes driving rain to beat China in straight sets and extend their winning streak to 108 matches in a row.

RELATED NEWS
IOC chides Bolt for lack of respect to rivals.
PAGE 39

The Americans defeated Wang Jie and Tian Jia 21-18, 21-18 to repeat their Athens victory and confirm their dominance of the sport. They did not lose a set in seven Olympic matches, playing through smog and swelter and a drenching gold medal game that

See WALSH on Page 42

Sixers outshine G-Stars in Rotary debut

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sophomore Joe Ada and veteran Ernest Duenas lifted the San Antonio Sixers to a 65-52 debut win against the G-Stars in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Ada nailed 22 points in his first game of the season, living up to expectations from the Sixers's No. 1 scorer last year. The Marianas High School point guard suited up for the Sixers only last season, but emerged as the top scorer of the team, averaging close to 20 points a game.

Duenas is on his last season in the 18-and-under league and together with Ada, they led the Sixers to a third-place finish in the 2007 edition of the youth caging, beating the Garapan Rollers I in the consolation match.

Duenas scored the Sixers' first basket this season and went on to finish with 12 points, providing stability to San Antonio's offense.

He and Ada combined for 14

See SIXERS on Page 42